6Gb/s SATA RAID TB

T12-S6.TB - Desktop
RM12-S6.TB - Rackmount

User Manual

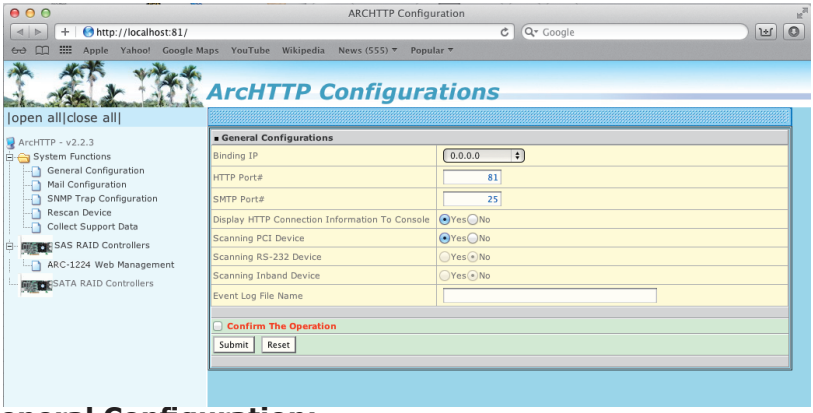
Version: 1.0
Issue Date: October, 2013

5.5 For Mac OS 10.X

The ArcHttp proxy server is provided on the software CD delivered with 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller or download from the www.areca.com.tw. The firmware embedded McRAID storage manager can configure and monitor the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller via ArcHttp proxy server. The Archttp proxy server for Mac pro, please refer to Chapter 4.6 "Driver Installation" for Mac 10.X.

5.6 ArcHttp Configuration

The ArcHttp proxy server will automatically assign one additional port for setup its configuration. If you want to change the "archttp-srv.conf" setting up of ArcHttp proxy server configuration, for example: General Configuration, Mail Configuration, and SNMP Configuration, please start Web Browser http:\\localhost: Cfg Assistant. Such as http:\\localhost: 81. The port number for first controller McRAID storage manager is ArcHttp proxy server configuration port number plus 1.

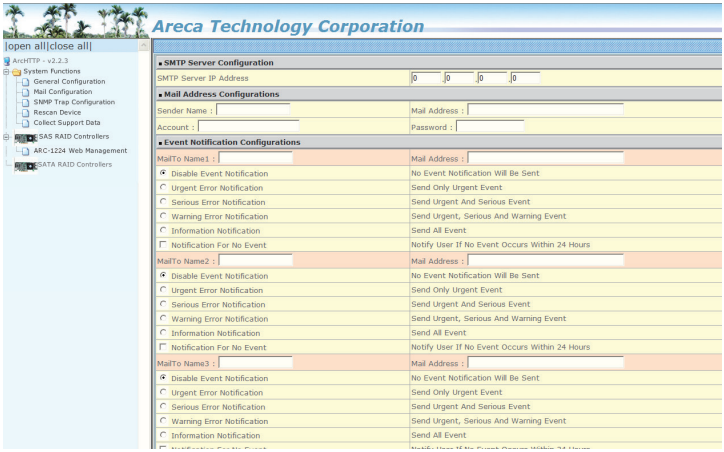


- **General Configuration:**

Binding IP: Restrict ArcHttp proxy server to bind only single interface (If more than one physical network in the server).
HTTP Port#: Value 1~65535.
Display HTTP Connection Information To Console: Select "Yes" to show Http send bytes and receive bytes information in the console.
Scanning PCI Device: Select "Yes" for ARC-1XXX series controller.
Scanning RS-232 Device: No.
Scanning Inband Device: No.

- **Mail (alert by Mail) Configuration:**

To enable the controller to send the email function, you need to configure the SMTP function on the ArcHttp software. To enable the RAID controller email sending function, click on the "Mail Configuration" link. The "SMTP Server Configurations" menu will show as following:



When you open the mail configuration page, you will see the following settings:

(1). SMTP Server Configuration:

SMTP Server IP Address: Enter the SMTP server IP address which is not McRAID storage manager IP.
Ex: 192.168.0.2.

(2). Mail Address Configurations:

Sender Name: Enter the sender name that will be shown on the outgoing mail.
Ex: RaidController_1.
Mail address: Enter the sender email that will be shown on the outgoing mail, but don't type IP to replace domain name.
Ex: RaidController_1@areca.com.tw.
Account: Enter the valid account if your SMTP mail server requires authentication.
Password: Enter the valid password if your SMTP mail server requires authentication.

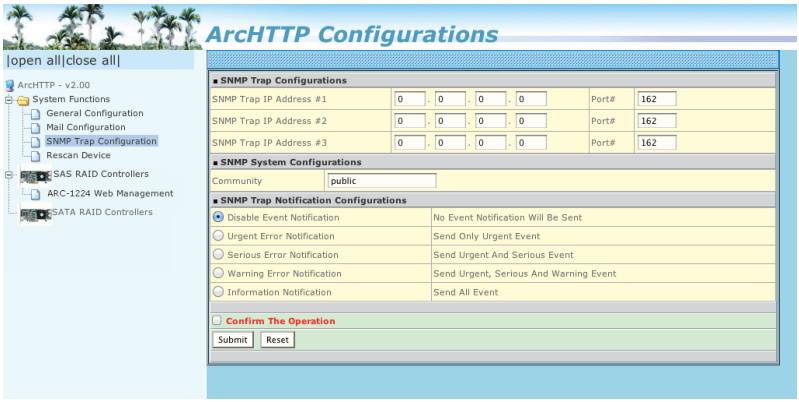
(3). Event Notification Configurations:

MailTo Name: Enter the alert receiver name that will be shown on the outgoing mail.
Mail Address: Enter the alert receiver mail address.
Ex: admin@areca.com.tw.

According to your requirement, set the corresponding event level :
Disable Event Notification: No event notification will be sent.
Urgent Error Notification: Send only urgent events.
Serious Error Notification: Send urgent and serious events.
Warning Error Notification: Send urgent, serious and warning events.
Information Notification: Send all events.
Notification For No Event: Notify user if no event occurs within 24 hours.

- **SNMP Traps Configuration:**

To enable the RAID controller to send the SNMP traps to client SNMP manager using the IP address assigned to the operating system, such as Net-SNMP manager, you can simply use the SNMP function on the ArcHttp proxy server software. To enable the RAID controller SNMP traps sending function, click on the "SNMP Configuration" link. The Archttp proxy only provide one direction to send the trap to the SNMP manager without needing to install the SNMP extension agent on the host. If SNMP manager requests to query the SNMP information from RAID controller, please refer the Appendix C "SNMP Operation & Installation". The "SNMP traps Configuration" menu will be shown as following:



When you open the SNMP traps configuration page, you will see the following settings:

(1). SNMP Trap Configurations
Enter the SNMP trap IP address.

(2). SNMP System Configurations
Community name acts as a password to screen accesses to the SNMP agent of a particular network device. Type the community names of the SNMP agent in this field. Before access is granted to a request station, this station must incorporate a valid community name into its request; otherwise, the SNMP agent will deny access to the system. Most network devices use "public" as default of their community names. This value is case-sensitive.

(3). SNMP Trap Notification Configurations
Before the client side SNMP manager application accepts the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller traps, it is necessary to integrate the MIB into the management application's database of events and status indicator codes. This process is known as compiling the MIB into the application. This process is highly vendor-specific and should be well-covered in the User's Guide of your SNMP application. Ensure the compilation process successfully integrates the contents of the areca_SATA.mib file into the traps database. Please refer to Appendix C of "SNMP Operation & Installation". The MIBs file resides at: <CD-ROM>\packages\SNMP_MIBs on the software CD.

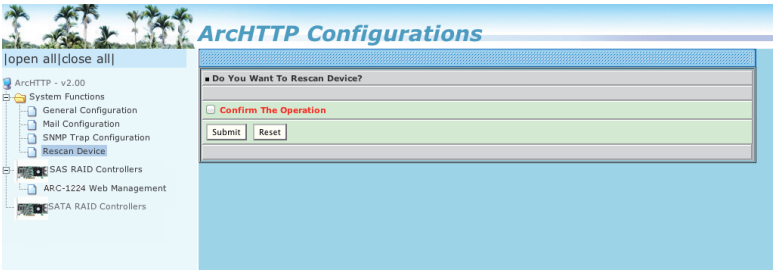
Note:

Event Notification Table refer to Appendix D.
After you confirm and submit configurations, you can use "Generate Test Event" feature to make sure these settings are correct.

- **Rescan Device Configuration:**

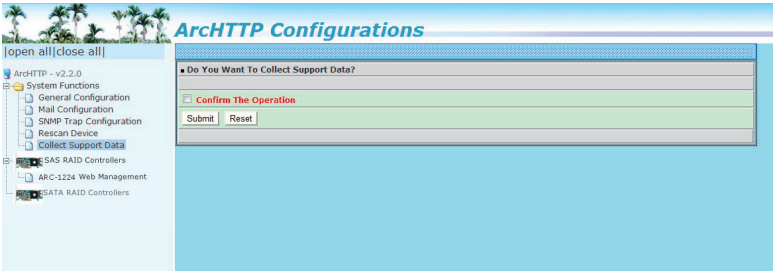
Let's assume you've put all Areca RAID adapters to a system. The Archttp scans the RAID adapters on the system and create an individual adapter icon located on left column of the Archttp Configurations screen. This adapter icon is for user to launch web browser RAID manager. If there is any RAID adapter missed on the system start-up, you can use the "Rescan Device" function. The

"Rescan Device" function is a procedure which forces the archttp to rescan the targets to allow a missed RAID adapter to be added.



- **Collect Support Data:**

Areca has added the "Collect Support Data" option on the Archttp proxy server utility to download a support file (file name:ctlrxx-xxxxx.log) with all necessary information (system information, configuration, disk information, eventlog). The "Collect Support Data" function will be automatically started when ERROR or SERIOUS event has occurred.



6. Web Browser-based Configuration

Before using the firmware-based browser McRAID storage manager, do the initial setup and installation of this product. If you need to boot up the operating system from a RAID volume set, you must first create a RAID volume by using McBIOS RAID manager. Please refer to section 3.3 "Using Quick Volume /Raid Setup" configuration for information on creating this initial volume set.

The McRAID storage manager is firmware-based utility, which is accessible via the web browser installed on your operating system. The web browser-based McRAID storage manager is a HTML-based application, which utilizes the browser (IE, Safari, Netscape and Mozilla etc) installed on your monitor station.

It can be accessed through the in-band PCIe 2.0 bus or out-of-band LAN port. The in-band method can launch the web browser-based McRAID storage manager via archttp proxy server. The firmware-embedded web browser-based McRAID storage manager allows local or remote to access it from any standard internet browser via a LAN or WAN with no software or patches required. The firmware contains SMTP manager monitors all system events and user can select either single or multiple user notifications to be sent via LAN with "Plain English" e-mails. The firmware-embedded SNMP agent allows remote to monitor events via LAN with no SNMP agent required.

- Create RAID set
- Expand RAID set
- Define volume set
- Add physical drive
- Modify volume set
- Modify RAID level/stripe size
- Define pass-through disk drives
- Modify system function
- Update firmware
- Designate drives as hot spares

6.1 Start-up McRAID Storage Manager

With the McRAID storage manager, you can locally manage a system containing a 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller that has Windows,

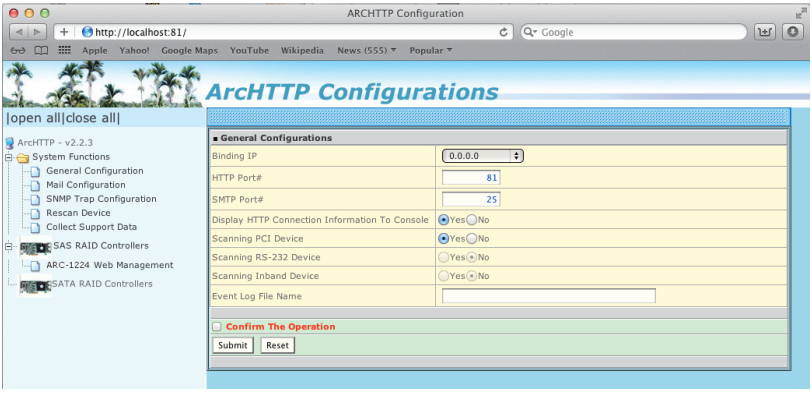
Linux or more and a supported browser. A locally managed system requires all of the following components:

- A supported web browser, which should already be installed on the system.
- Install ArcHttp proxy server on the SATA RAID system. (Refer to Chapter 5, Archttp Proxy Server Installation)
- Remote and managed systems must have a TCP/IP connection.

• Start-up McRAID Storage Manager from Windows Local Administration

Screen captures in this section are taken from a Windows XP installation. If you are running another version of Windows, your screens may look different, but the ArcHttp proxy server installation is essentially the same.

There "Areca RAID Controller" icon bar window start appearing in the taskbar, double-click to launch the ArcHTTP Configuration screen. Or click on the "Start" button in the Windows task bar and then click "Program", select the "McRAID" and run " Archttp proxy server". The "ArcHTTP Configurations" dialog box appears.



When you click the archttp proxy server utility, it shows all RAID adapters available on the system and create an individual adapter icon located on left column of the "Archttp Configurations" screen. This adapter icon is for user to launch the selected RAID adapter web browser RAID manager.

The "Enter Network Password" dialog screen appears, type the

User Name and Password. The RAID controller default User Name is "admin" and the Password is "0000". After entering the user name and password, press **Enter** key to access the McRAID storage manager.

● Start-up McRAID Storage Manager from Linux/ FreeBSD/Solaris/Mac Local Administration

To configure the internal 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller. You need to know its IP address. You can find the IP address assigned by the Archttp proxy server installation:Binding IP:[X.X.X.X] and controller listen port.

(1). You can click the individual adapter icon located on left column of the "Archttp Configurations" screen or Launch your McRAID storage manager by entering http://[Computer IP Address]:[Port Number] in the web browser.

(2). When connection is established, the "System Login" screen appears. The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller default User Name is "admin" and the Password is "0000".

● Start-up McRAID Storage Manager Through Ethernet Port (Out-of-Band)

Areca now offers an alternative means of communication for the PCIe RAID controller – web browser-based McRAID storage manager program. User can access the built-in configuration without needing system starting up running the ArcHttp proxy sever. The web browser-based McRAID storage manager program is an HTML-based application, which utilizes the browser installed on your remote system.

To ensure proper communications between the PCIe RAID controller and web browser-based McRAID storage manager, Please connect the RAID controller LAN port to any LAN switch port. The controller has embedded the TCP/IP & Web Browser-based RAID manager in the firmware. User can remote manage the RAID controller without adding any user specific software (platform independent) via standard web browsers directly connected to the 10/100Mbit RJ45 LAN port.

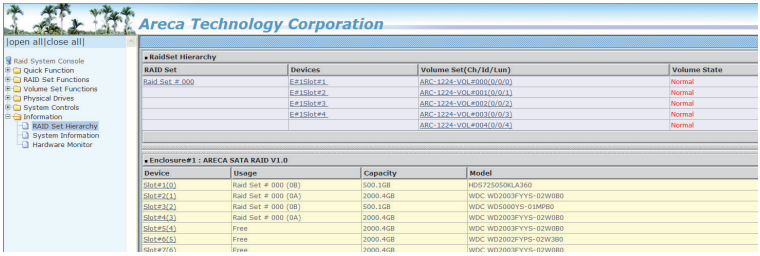
To configure RAID controller on a remote machine, you need to know its IP address. The IP address will default show in McBIOS RAID manager of "Ethernet Configuration" or "System Information" option. Launch your firmware-embedded TCP/IP & web browser-based McRAID storage manager by entering http://[IP Address] in the web browser.

Note:

You can find controller Ethernet port IP address in McBIOS RAID manager "System Information" option.

6.2 McRAID Storage Manager

The McRAID storage manager initial start-up screen displays the current configuration of your 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller. It displays the "Raid Set List", "Volume Set List", and "Physical Disk List". The RAID set information, volume set information, and drive information can also be viewed by clicking on the "RAID Set Hierarchy" screen. The current configuration can also be viewed by clicking on "RAID Set Hierarchy" in the main menu.



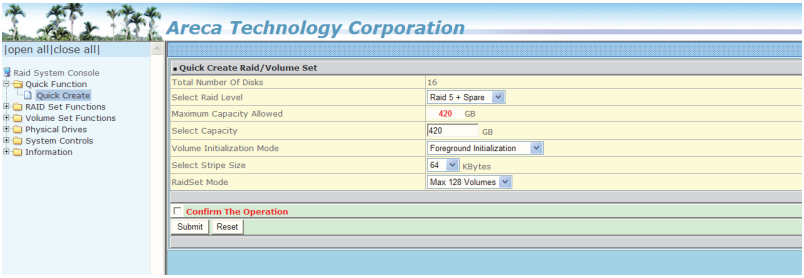
To display RAID set information, move the mouse cursor to the desired RAID set number, then click it. The RAID set information will be displayed. To display volume set information, move the mouse cursor to the desired volume set number, then click it. The volume set information will be displayed. To display drive information, move the mouse cursor to the desired physical drive number, then click it. The drive information will be displayed.

6.3 Main Menu

The main menu shows all available functions, accessible by clicking on the appropriate link.

Individual Category	Description
Quick Function	Create a default configuration, which is based on the number of physical disks installed; it can modify the volume set Capacity, Raid Level, and Stripe Size.
Raid Set Functions	Create a customized RAID set.
Volume Set Functions	Create customized volume sets and modify the existed volume sets parameter.
Physical Drives	Create pass through disks and modify the existing pass through drives parameters. Also provides the function to identify disk drives (blinking fault LED).
System Controls	Setting the RAID system configuration.
Information	Viewing the controller information. The Raid Set Hierarchy can be viewed through the "Raid Set Hierarchy" item.

6.4 Quick Function



The number of physical drives in the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller determines the Raid Levels that can be implemented with the RAID set. You can create a RAID set associated with exactly one volume set. The user can change the Raid Level, Capacity, Initialization Mode and Stripe Size. A hot spare option is also created, depending on the exist configuration. Click the "Confirm The Operation" check box and click on the "Submit" button in the "Quick Create" screen, the RAID set and volume set will start to initialize.

Note:

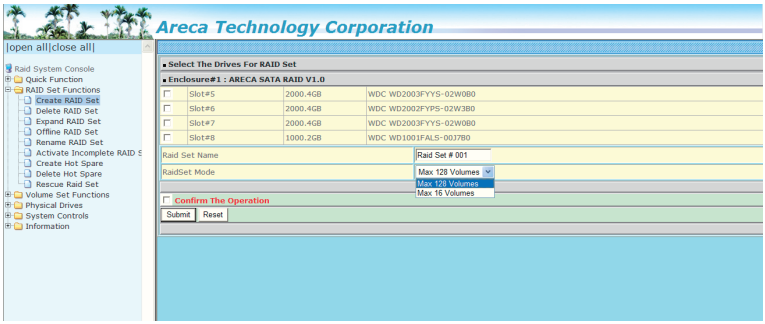
In "Quick Create", your volume set is automatically configured based on the number of disks in your system. Use the "Raid Set Functions" and "Volume Set Functions" if you prefer to customize your volume set, or RAID 30/50/60 volume set.

6.5 Raid Set Functions

Use the "Raid Set Function" and "Volume Set Function" if you prefer to customize your volume set. Manual configuration can provide full control of the RAID set settings, but it will take longer to complete than the "Quick Volume/Raid Setup" configuration. Select the "Raid Set Function" to manually configure the RAID set for the first time or delete and reconfigure existing RAID sets. (A RAID set is a group of disks containing one or more volume sets.)

6.5.1 Create Raid Set

To create a RAID set, click on the "Create Raid Set" link. A "Select The Drive For RAID Set" screen is displayed showing the drive(s) connected to the current controller and enclosures. Click on the selected physical drives within the current RAID set. Enter 1 to 15 alphanumeric characters to define a unique identifier for a RAID set. The default RAID set name will always appear as "Raid Set #". Click the "Confirm The Operation" check box and click on the "Submit" button on the screen; the RAID set will start to initialize. If you have available disk member, you can repeat above procedures to define another RAID sets.



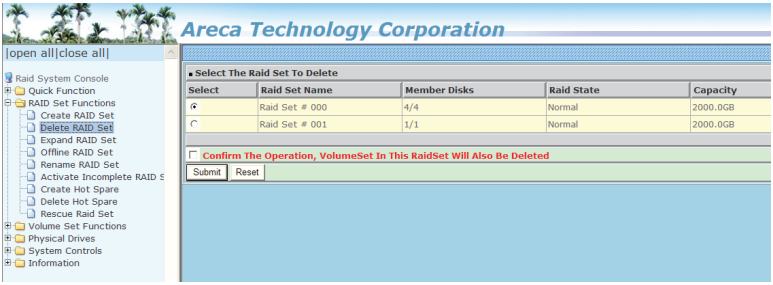
128 volumes is the default mode for SAS RAID controller, the 16 volumes mode is used for support roaming this raidset to 3Gb/s SATA RAID controllers. The 3Gb/s SATA RAID controller is designed to support up to 16 volumes only. You have to use "Max 16 volumes" on the raidset mode if you plan to roam this raidset between 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller and 3Gb/s SATA RAID controller.

Note:

To create RAID 30/50/60 volume, you need create multiple RAID sets first (up to 8 RAID sets) with the same disk numbers on each RAID set. The max no. disk drives per RAID set: 24 for RAID 0/10(1E)/3/5/6/30/50/60.

6.5.2 Delete Raid Set

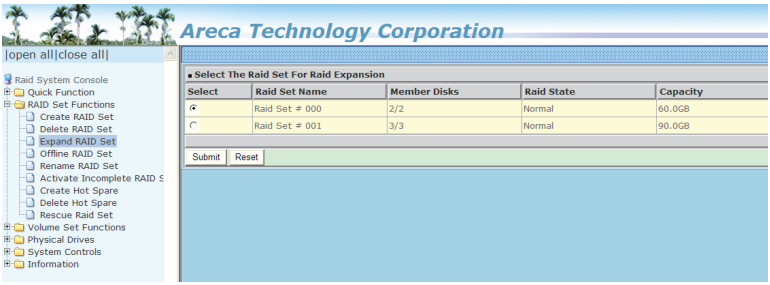
To delete a RAID set, click on the "Deleted Raid Set" link. A "Select The RAID Set To Delete" screen is displayed showing all exist RAID sets in the current controller. Click the RAID set number which you want to delete in the select column on the delete screen. Then, click the "Confirm The Operation" check box and click on the "Submit" button in the screen to delete it. The volume sets included in the "Delete RAID Set". It will be deleted by this action. But for the Raid 30/50/60, you need to delete the volumes belonging to those RAID sets.



6.5.3 Expand Raid Set

Instead of deleting a RAID set and recreating it with additional disk drives, the "Expand Raid Set" function allows the users to add disk drives to the RAID set that have already been created. To expand a RAID set:

Select the "Expand Raid Set" option. If there is an available disk, then the "Select SATA Drives For Raid Set Expansion" screen appears.



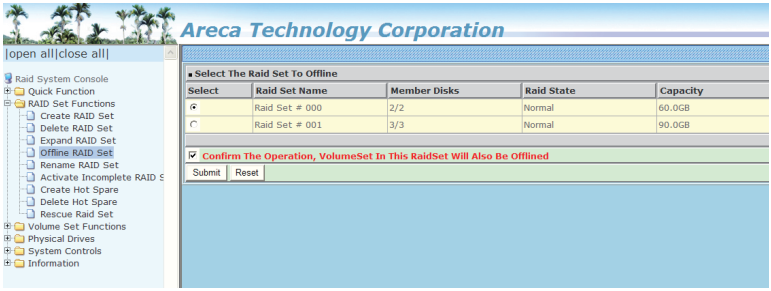
Select the target RAID set by clicking on the appropriate radio button. Select the target disk by clicking on the appropriate check box. Click on the "Submit" button to start the expansion on the RAID set. The new additional capacity can be utilized by one or more volume sets. The volume sets associated with this RAID set appear for you to have chance to modify RAID level or stripe size. Follow the instruction presented in the "Modify Volume Set " to modify the volume sets; operation system specific utilities may be required to expand operating system partitions.

Note:

1. Once the "Expand Raid Set" process has started, user can not stop it. The process must be completed.
2. If a disk drive fails during RAID set expansion and a hot spare is available, an auto rebuild operation will occur after the RAID set expansion completes.
3. RAID 30/50/60 does not support the "Expand Raid set".
4. RAID set expansion is a quite critical process, we strongly recommend customer backup data before expand. Unexpected accident may cause serious data corruption.

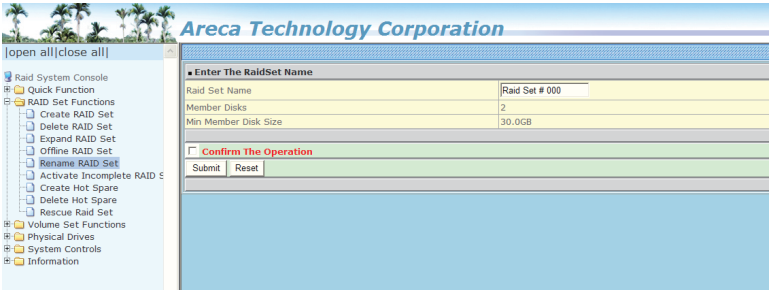
6.5.4 Offline Raid Set

This function is for customer being able to unmount and remount a multi-disk volume. All Hdds of the selected RAID set will be put into offline state, spun down and fault LED in fast blinking mode. User can remove those Hdds and insert new Hdds on those empty slots without needing power down the controller.



6.5.5 Rename Raid Set

The default RAID set name will always appear as “Raid Set #” when it is first created by the controller. The "Rename Raid Set" function is for customer to rename the default RAID set name. To rename a RAID set from a group of RAID sets:
(1). Click on the ”Rename Raid Set" link.
(2). Click the RAID set check box from the list that you wish to rename. Click the “Submit” button. The following screen appears. Use this option to rename the RAID set name.

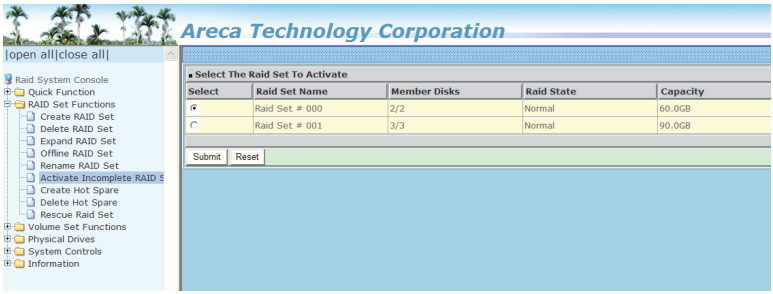


6.5.6 Activate Incomplete Raid Set

If one of the disk drives is removed in power off state, the RAID set state will change to “Incomplete State”. If the user wants to continue to operate the controller without power-off the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller, the user can use the “Activate Incomplete Raid Set” option to active the RAID set. After the user completes this function, the Raid State will change to “Degraded Mode” and start to work.

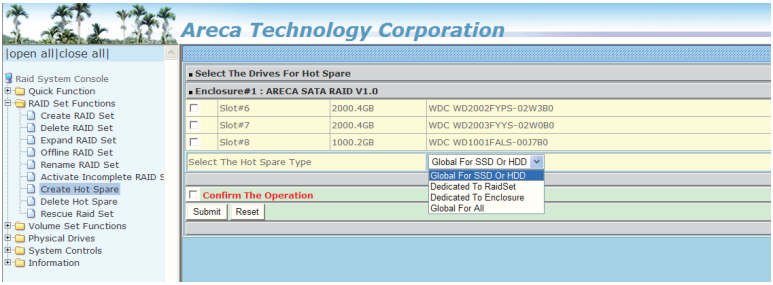
To activate the incomplete the RAID set, click on the “Activate Raid Set” link. A “Select The RAID SET To Activate” screen is

displayed showing all RAID sets existing on the current controller. Click the RAID set number to activate in the select column. Click on the "Submit" button on the screen to activate the RAID set that had a disk removed (or failed) in the power off state. The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller will continue to work in degraded mode.



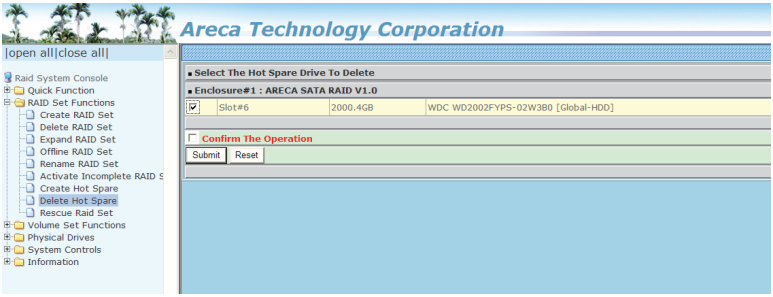
6.5.7 Create Hot Spare

When you choose the "Create Hot Spare" option in the "Raid Set Function", all unused physical devices connected to the current controller appear. Select the target disk by clicking on the appropriate check box. Click the "Confirm The Operation" check box and click the "Submit" button in the screen to create the hot spares. The "Create Hot Spare" gives you the ability to define a global or dedicated hot spare. Unlike "Global Hot Spare" which can be used with any RAID sets, "Dedicated Hot Spare" can only be used with a specific RAID set or Enclosure. Under "Global For SSD or HDD" option, SSD hot spare is used to rebuild failed SSD and HDD hot spare for rebuild failed HDD. When a disk drive fails in the RAID set or enclosure with a dedicated hot spare is pre-set, data on the disk drive is rebuild automatically on the dedicated hot spare disk.



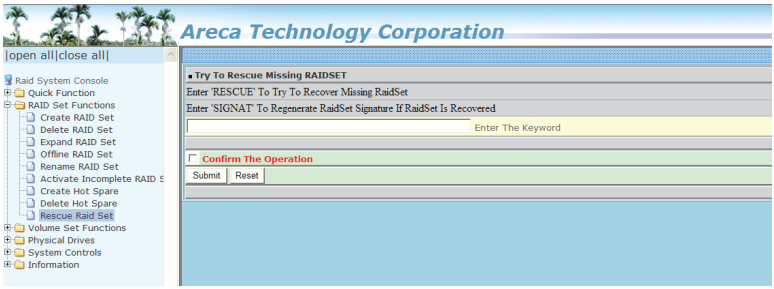
6.5.8 Delete Hot Spare

Select the target hot spare disk to delete by clicking on the appropriate check box. Click the "Confirm The Operation" check box and click the "Submit" button on the screen to delete the hot spares.



6.5.9 Rescue Raid Set

When the system is powered off in the RAID set update/creation period, the configuration possibly could disappear due to this abnormal condition. The "RESCUE" function can recover the missing RAID set information. The RAID controller uses the time as the RAID set signature. The RAID set may have different time after the RAID set is recovered. The "SIGANT" function can regenerate the signature for the RAID set.



Caution:

Please contact us to make sure if you need to use rescue function. Improperly usage may cause configuration corruption.

6.6 Volume Set Functions

A volume set is seen by the host system as a single logical device. It is organized in a RAID level with one or more physical disks. RAID level refers to the level of data performance and protection of a volume set. A volume set capacity can consume all or a portion of the disk capacity available in a RAID set. Multiple volume sets can exist on a group of disks in a RAID set. Additional volume sets created in a specified RAID set will reside on all the physical disks in the RAID set. Thus each volume set on the RAID set will have its data spread evenly across all the disks in the RAID set.

The following summaries are the volume set features for the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller.

1. Volume sets of different RAID levels may coexist on the same RAID set and up to 128 volume sets per controller.

2. Up to 128 volume sets can be created in a RAID set.

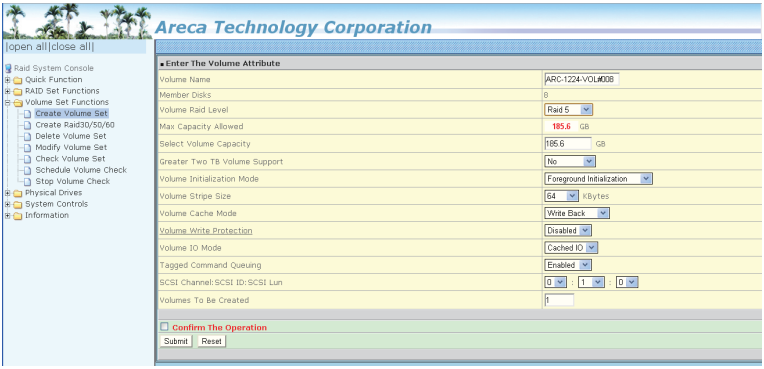
3. The maximum addressable size of a single volume set is not limited to 2TB, because the controller is capable of 64-bit LBA mode. However the operating system itself may not be capable of addressing more than 2TB.

See Areca website ftp://ftp.areca.com.tw/RaidCards/Documents/Manual_Spec/ Over2TB_050721.ZIP file for details.

6.6.1 Create Volume Set (0/1/10/3/5/6)

To create volume set from RAID set system, move the cursor bar to the main menu and click on the "Create Volume Set" link. The "Select The Raid Set To Create On It" screen will show all RAID set number. Tick on a RAID set number that you want to create and then click on the "Submit" button.

The new create volume set attribute allows user to select the Volume Name, RAID Level, Capacity, Greater Two TB Volume Support, Initialization Mode, Strip Size, Cache Mode, Tagged Command Queuing, and SCSI Channel/SCSI ID/SCSI Lun.



• Volume Name

The default volume name will always appear as "ARC-12x4-VOL". You can rename the volume set providing it does not exceed the 15 characters limit.

• Volume Raid Level

Set the Raid Level for the volume set. Highlight the desired RAID level from the available RAID levels option.

• Capacity

The maximum volume size is the default initial setting. Enter the appropriate volume size to fit your application.

• Greater Two TB Volume Support

If volume capacity will exceed 2TB, controller will show the "Greater Two TB Volume Support" sub-menu. Greater Two TB Volume Support option: "No", "64bit LBA" and "4K Block".

- No

It keeps the volume size with max. 2TB limitation.

- 64bit LBA

This option uses 16 bytes CDB instead of 10 bytes. The maximum volume capacity is up to 512TB.
This option works on different OS which supports 16 bytes CDB. Such as:
Windows 2003 with SP1 or later
Linux kernel 2.6.x or later

- 4K Block
It changes the sector size from default 512 bytes to 4k bytes. The maximum volume capacity is up to 16TB. This option works under Windows platform only. And it can not be converted to "Dynamic Disk", because 4k sector size is not a standard format.

For more details, please download Over2TB manual from http://www.areca.com.tw/support/main.htm

● Initialization Mode
This option is used to define "Background Initialization", "Foreground Initialization" or "No Init (To Rescue Volume)". When "Background Initialization", the initialization proceeds as a background task, the volume set is fully accessible for system reads and writes. The operating system can instantly access to the newly created arrays without requiring a reboot and waiting the initialization complete. When "Foreground Initialization", the initialization proceeds must be completed before the volume set ready for system accesses. There is no initialization happened when you select "No Init" option. "No Init" is for customer to rescue volume without losing data in the disk.

● Stripe Size
This parameter sets the size of the stripe written to each disk in a RAID 0, 1, 10, 5, 6, 50 or 60 logical drive. You can set the stripe size to 4 KB, 8 KB, 16 KB, 32 KB, 64 KB, 128 KB, 256KB, 512KB, or 1024KB. A larger stripe size produces better read performance, especially if your computer does mostly sequential reads. However, if you are sure that your computer does random reads more often, select a smaller stripe size.

Note:

RAID level 3 and 30 can't modify the cache strip size.

● Cache Mode
The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller supports "Write Through" and "Write Back" cache.

•Volume Write Protection
When "Volume Write Protection" is enabled on the "Modify Volume Set", host commands fail if they are issued to a volume in that RAID controller and attempt to modify a volume's data or attributes. Volume Write Protection is used primarily for customer-initiated disaster recovery testing.

• Volume IO Mode:
The Cache IO and Direct IO cache policies apply to read on a specific virtual disk. The volume IO mode options are as follows:

- Cache Io
Specifies that all reads are buffered in the controller cache memory.

- Direct Io
Specifies that reads are not buffered in cache memory. When using direct IO mode, data is transferred to the controller cache memory and the host system simultaneously during a read request.

If a subsequent read request requires data from the same data block, it can be read directly from the controller cache memory.

• Tagged Command Queuing
The "Enabled" option is useful for enhancing overall system performance under multi-tasking operating systems. The Command Tag (Drive Channel) function controls the SATA command tag queuing support for each drive channel. This function should normally remain "Enabled". "Disabled" this function only when using SATA drives that do not support command tag queuing.

• SCSI Channel/SCSI ID/SCSI Lun
SCSI Channel: The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller function is simulated as an external SCSI RAID controller. The host bus is represented as a SCSI channel. Choose the SCSI Channel.
SCSI ID: Each SCSI device attached to the SCSI card, as well as the card itself, must be assigned an unique SCSI ID number. A SCSI channel can connect up to 15 devices. The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller is a large SCSI device. Assign an ID from a list of SCSI IDs.

SCSI LUN: Each SCSI ID can support up to 8 LUNs. Most 6Gb/s SATA controllers treat each LUN like a SATA disk.

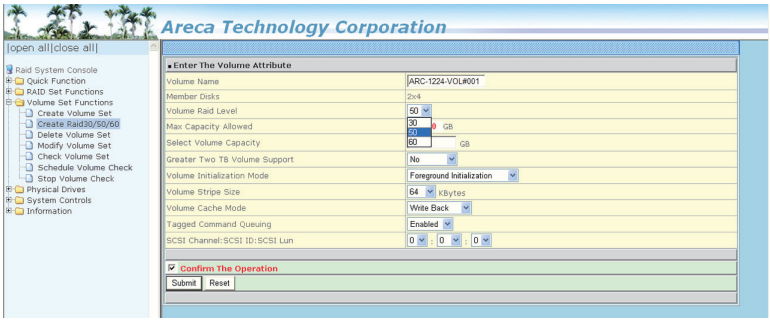
6.6.2 Create Raid30/50/60 (Volume Set 30/50/60)

To create 30/50/60 volume set from RAID set group, move the cursor bar to the main menu and click on the "Create Raid30/50/60" link. The "Select The Raid Set To Create Volume On It" screen will show all RAID set number. Tick on the RAID set numbers (same disk No per RAID set) that you want to create and then click on the "Submit" button.

The new create volume set attribute allows user to select the Volume Name, Raid Level, Capacity, Greater Two TB Volume Support, Initialization Mode, Strip Size, Cache Mode, Tagged Command Queuing, and SCSI Channel/SCSI ID/SCSI Lun. Please refer to above section for details description of each item.

Note:

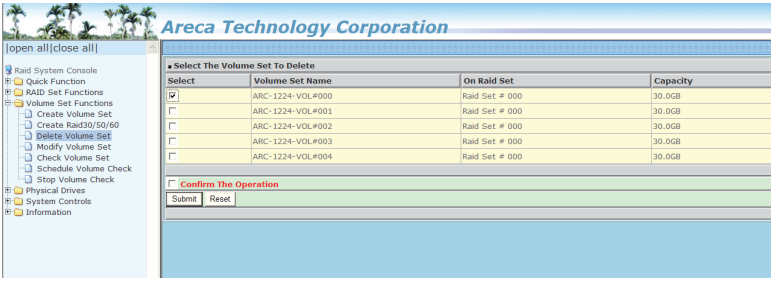
RAID level 30 50 and 60 can support up to eight RAID set (four pairs), but it can not support expansion and migration.



6.6.3 Delete Volume Set

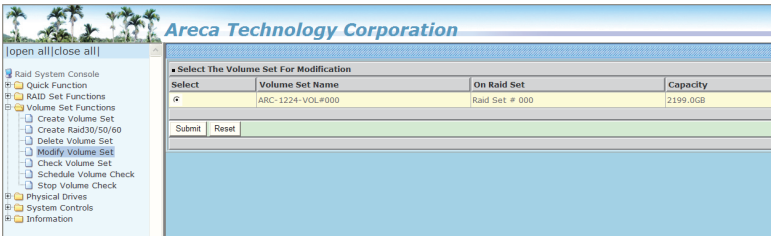
To delete a volume from RAID set, move the cursor bar to the main menu and click on the "Delete Volume Set" link. The "Select The Raid Set To Delete" screen will show all RAID set numbers. Click a RAID set number and the "Confirm The Operation" check box and then click the "Submit" button to show all volume set

items in the selected RAID set. Click a volume set number and the "Confirm The Operation" check box and then click the "Submit" button to delete the volume set.



6.6.4 Modify Volume Set

To modify a volume set from a RAID set:
(1). Click on the "Modify Volume Set" link.
(2). Click the volume set check box from the list that you wish to modify. Click the "Submit" button. The following screen appears.



Use this option to modify the volume set configuration. To modify volume set attributes, move the cursor bar to the volume set attribute menu and click it. The "Enter The Volume Attribute" screen appears. Move the cursor to an attribute item and then click the attribute to modify the value. After you complete the modification, click the "Confirm The Operation" check box and click the "Submit" button to complete the action. The user can only modify the last volume set capacity.

6.6.4.1 Volume Growth

Use "Expand RAID Set" function to add disk to a RAID set. The additional capacity can be used to enlarge the last volume set size or to create another volume set. The "Modify Volume Set"

function can support the “Volume Modification” function. To expand the last volume set capacity, move the cursor bar to the “Capacity” item and entry the capacity size. When finished the above action, click on the "Sumbit" button to complete the action. The last volume set starts to expand its capacity.

To expand an existing volume noticed:

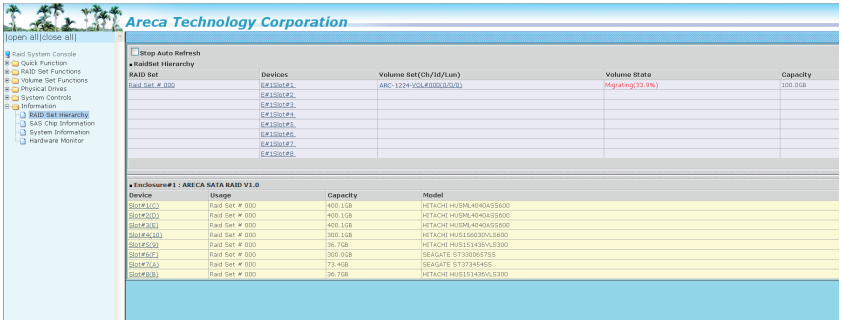
- Only the last volume can expand capacity.
- When expand volume capacity, you can’t modify stripe size or modify RAID level simultaneously.
- You can expand volume capacity, but can’t reduce volume capacity size.
- After volume expansion, the volume capacity can't be decreased.

For greater 2TB expansion:

- If your system installed in the volume, don't expand the volume capacity greater 2TB; except your OS and RAID controller can support boot up from a greater 2TB capacity device.
- Expand over 2TB used LBA64 mode. Please make sure your OS supports LBA64 before expand it.

6.6.4.2 Volume Set Migration

Migrating occurs when a volume set is migrating from one RAID level to another, when a volume set strip size changes, or when a disk is added to a RAID set. Migration state is displayed in the volume state area of the “Volume Set Information” screen.



Note:

1. If the volume is RAID level 30, 50, or 60, you can not change the volume to another RAID level. If the volume is RAID level 0, 1, 10(1E), 3, 5, or 6, you can not change the volume to RAID level 30, 50, or 60.
2.Power failure may damage the migration data. Please backup the RAID data before you start the migration function.

6.6.5 Check Volume Set

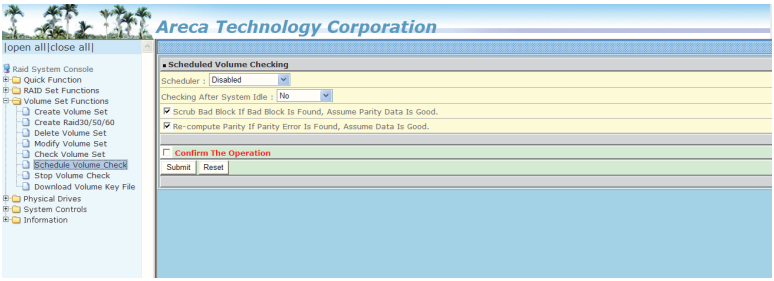
To check a volume set from a RAID set:
(1). Click on the "Check Volume Set" link.
(2). Click on the volume set from the list that you wish to check.

Click on "Confirm The Operation" and click on the "Submit" button. Use this option to verify the correctness of the redundant data in a volume set. For example, in a system with dedicated parity, volume set check means computing the parity of the data disk drives and comparing the results to the contents of the dedicated parity disk drive. The checking percentage can also be viewed by clicking on "RAID Set Hierarchy" in the main menu.

6.6.6 Schedule Volume Check

A volume check is a process that verifies the integrity of redundant data. To verify RAID 3, 5, 6, 30, 50 or 60 redundancy, a volume check reads all associated data blocks, computes parity, reads parity, and verifies that the computed parity matches the read parity.

Volume checks are very important because they detect and correct parity errors or bad disk blocks in the drive. A consistency check forces every block on a volume to be read, and any bad blocks are marked; those blocks are not used again. This is critical and important because a bad disk block can prevent a disk rebuild from completing. We strongly recommend that you run consistency checks on a regular basis—at least once per week (set on 'Scheduler). Volume checks degrade performance, so you can also run them when the system is idle (set by "Checking After System Idle").

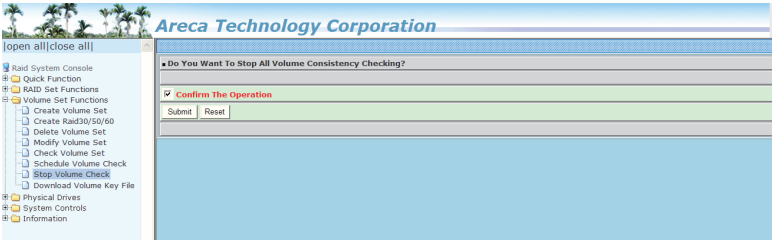


Note:

Please make sure of the inconsistency source generated by parity error or bad block before you click the recovery method. Otherwise, you will lose the recovery data.

6.6.7 Stop Volume Set Check

Use this option to stop the "Check Volume Set" function.



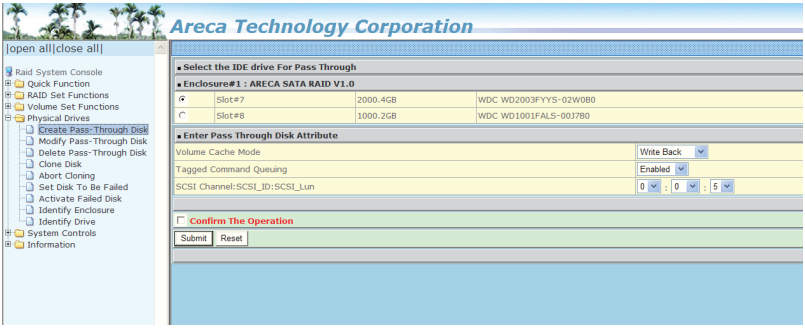
6.7 Physical Drive

Choose this option to select a physical disk from the main menu and then perform the operations listed below.

6.7.1 Create Pass-Through Disk

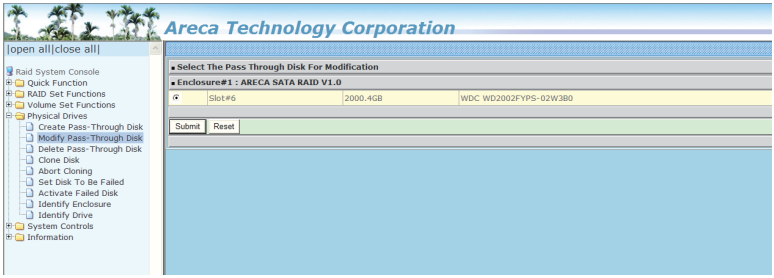
To create pass-through disk, move the mouse cursor to the main menu and click on the "Create Pass-Through" link. The relative setting function screen appears. A pass-through disk is not controlled by the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller firmware; it can't be a part of a volume set. The disk is available to the operating system

as an individual disk. It is typically used on a system where the operating system is on a disk not controlled by the RAID firmware. The user can also select the Cache Mode, Tagged Command Queuing, and SCSI channel/SCSI_ID/SCSI_LUN for this pass-through disk.



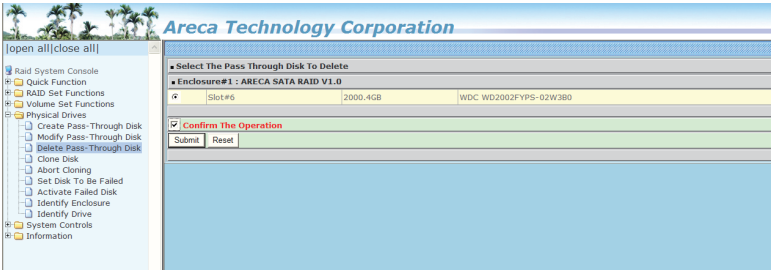
6.7.2 Modify Pass-Through Disk

Use this option to modify the pass-through disk attribute. The user can modify the Cache Mode, Tagged Command Queuing, and SCSI Channel/ID/LUN on an existing pass-through disk.
To modify the pass-through drive attribute from the pass-through drive pool, move the mouse cursor bar and click on the "Modify Pass-Through" link. The "Select The Pass Through Disk For Modification" screen appears mark the check box for the pass-through disk from the pass-through drive pool and click on the "Submit" button to select drive. When the "Enter Pass-Through Disk Attribute" screen appears, modify the drive attribute values, as you want. After you complete the selection, mark the check box for "Confirm The Operation" and click on the "Submit" button to complete the selection action.



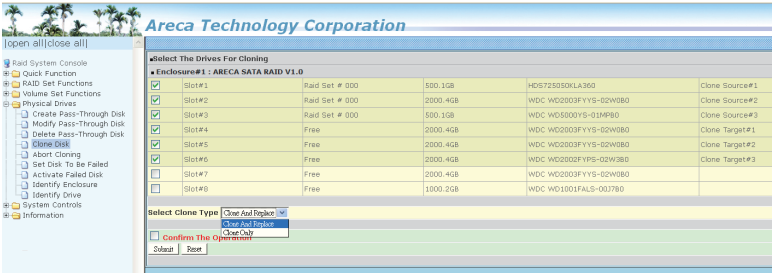
6.7.3 Delete Pass-Through Disk

To delete a pass-through drive from the pass-through drive pool, move the mouse cursor bar to the main menus and click the "Delete Pass Through" link. After you complete the selection, mark the check box for "Confirm The Operation" and click the "Submit" button to complete the delete action.



6.7.4 Clone Disk

Instead of deleting a RAID set and recreating it with larger disk drives, the "Clone Disk" function allows the users to replace larger disk drives to the RAID set that have already been created. Click the "Clone Disk" option on the "Physical Drives" link to enable the clone function. If there is an available disk, then the "Select The Drives For Cloning" screen appears. There are two "Clone Disk" function options: "Clone And Replace " and "Clone Only."



Clone Disk Procedure

(a) Select one of the members as the "Clone Source" (status indi cated as Raid Set #) by clicking on the appropriate check box.
(b) Select a "Clone Target" (status indicated as Free or Hot Spare)
by clicking on the appropriate check box.
(c) If you have available disk member, you can repeat above pro cedures to define another clone pair.
(d) Select Clone Type.

The pair number for both the "Clone Source" and the "Clone Target" will be indicated in the screen. Click the "Confirm The Operation" check box and click on the "Submit" button on the screen; the controller will automatically start the cloning process using the existing "stand-by" (Free or Hot Spare drive) to clone the source drive (the Raid Set member drive). The cloning process percentage will be indicated in the "Volume State" area of the "Volume Set Information" screen. Completion of the Clone function process will be indicated by a notification message on the event log.

6.7.4.1 Clone And Replace

You can enlarge your logical drives by copying and replacing all member drives with drives of higher capacity. The existing data in the logical drives is copied onto the new drives, and then the original members are marked as "Offlined".

6.7.4.2 Clone Only

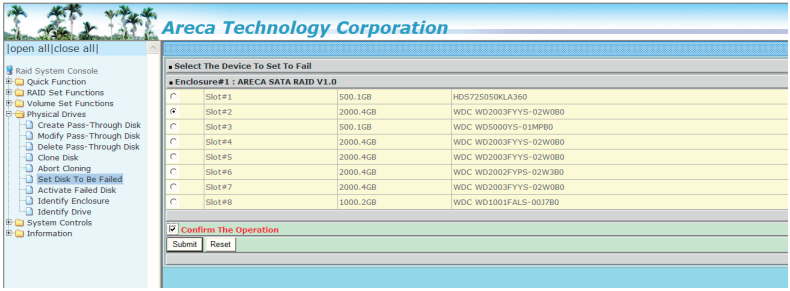
The stand-by disk will clone the logical drives without substituting it. The status of the stand-by drive will be marked as "Offlined" after the cloning process. The source drive will remain a member of the logical drive.

6.7.5 Abort Cloning

Use this function to stop the ongoing clone disk action.

6.7.6 Set Disk To Be Failed

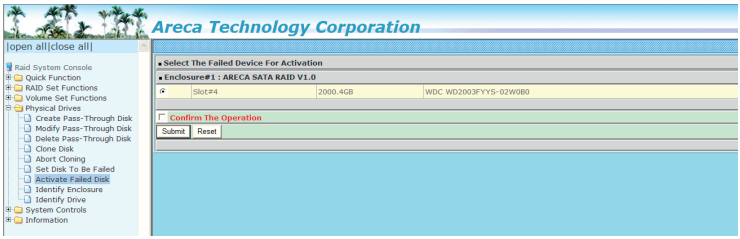
It sets a normal working disk as "failed" so that users can test some of the features and functions.



6.7.7 Activate Failed Disk

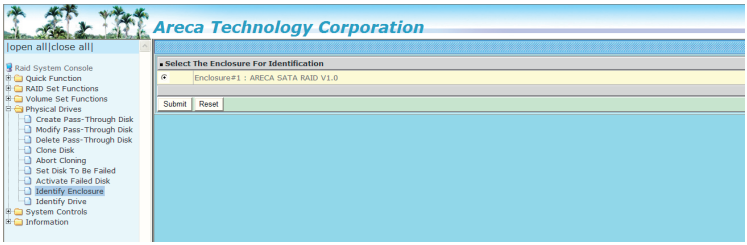
It forces the current "failed" disk in the system to be back online. "Activate Failed Disk" function has no effect on the removed disks, because a "removed" disk does not give the controller a chance to mark it as "failure".

Followings are considered as "Removed-Disk":
(1). Manually removed by user
(2). Losing PHY connection due to bad connector, cable, back-plane
(3). Losing PHY connection due to disk fail
Basically, in the eyes of the controller, the disk suddenly disappears due to whatever reason.



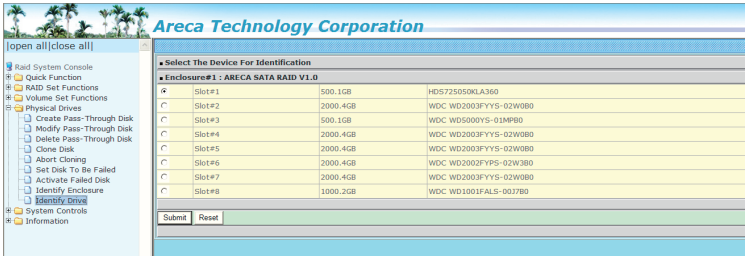
6.7.8 Identify Enclosure

To prevent removing the wrong enclosure, the selected Areca expander enclosure all disks fault LED indicator will light for physically locating the selected enclosure when the "Identify Enclosure" is selected. This function will also light the enclosure LED indicator, if it is existed.



6.7.9 Identify Drive

To prevent removing the wrong drive, the selected disk fault LED indicator will light for physically locating the selected disk when the "Identify Selected Device" is selected.



6.8 System Controls

6.8.1 System Config

To set the RAID system function, move the cursor to the main menu and click the "System Controls" link. The "Raid System Function" menu will show all items, and then select the desired function.

• System Beeper Setting

The "System Beeper Setting" function is used to "Disabled" or "Enabled" the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller alarm tone generator.

• Background Task Priority

The "Background Task Priority" is a relative indication of how much time the controller devotes to a rebuild operation. The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller allows the user to choose the rebuild priority (UltraLow, Low, Medium and High) to balance volume set access and rebuild tasks appropriately. For high array performance, specify a "Low" value.

• JBOD/RAID Configuration

JBOD is an acronym for "Just a Bunch Of Disk". A group of hard disks in a RAID box are not set up as any type of RAID configuration. All drives are available to the operating system as

an individual disk. JBOD does not provide data redundancy. User needs to delete the RAID set, when you want to change the option from the RAID to the JBOD function.

• SATA NCQ Support
The controller supports both SATA and SATA disk drives. The SATA NCQ allows multiple commands to be outstanding within a drive at the same time. Drives that support NCQ have an internal queue where outstanding commands can be dynamically rescheduled or re-ordered, along with the necessary tracking mechanisms for outstanding and completed portions of the workload. The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller allows the user to select the SATA NCQ support: "Enabled" or "Disabled".

• HDD Read Ahead Cache
Allow Read Ahead (Default: Enabled)—When Enabled, the drive's read ahead cache algorithm is used, providing maximum performance under most circumstances.

• Volume Data Read Ahead
The volume read data ahead parameter specifies the controller firmware algorithms which process the Read Ahead data blocks from the disk. The read ahead parameter is normal by default. To modify the value, you must set it from the command line using the Read Ahead option. The normal option satisfies the performance requirements for a typical volume. The disabled value implies no read ahead. The most efficient value for the controllers depends on your application. Aggressive read ahead is optimal for sequential access but it degrades random access.

• Empty HDD Slot LED
The firmware has added the "Empty HDD Slot LED" option to setup the fault LED light "ON "or "OFF" when there is no HDD installed. When each slot has a power LED for the HDD installed identify, user can set this option to "OFF". Choose option "ON", the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller will light the fault LED; if no HDD installed.

• Max Command Length
Max Command Length is used to set a "best" IO size for the RAID controller.

• Auto Activate Incomplete Raid
When some of the disk drives are removed in power off state or boot up stage, the RAID set state will change to "Incomplete State". But if a user wants to automatically continue to work while the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller is powered on, the user can set the "Auto Activate Incomplete Raid" option to enable. The RAID state will change to "Degraded Mode" while it powers on.

• Disk Write Cache Mode
User can set the "Disk Write Cache Mode" to Auto, Enabled, or Disabled. "Enabled" increases speed, "Disabled" increases reliability.

• Write Same For Initialization
Drives that support the Write Same feature (SCT) can write to multiple drive sectors at once, improving initialization time. To take advantage of this feature, all the drives in the unit must support Write Same. User can set the "Enabled" or "Disabled" for the controller initialization.

• Hot Plugged Disk For Rebuilding
It defines if the RAID array volume should start rebuilding or not when detects a disk is inserted/re-inserted during online.
The options are: "Blank Disk Only", "Always", and "Disable". The default is "Blank Disk Only".

"Blank Disk Only" - it will trigger the rebuilding if and only if the inserted disk has not been in the RAID array before, which has no RAID signature on it. So when a previously removed disk is self re-inserted, it won't trigger the degraded RAID array to rebuild, and so that the administrator has a chance to identify this miss-behaving disk and replace it.

"Always" – it is what it was before. Whenever a disk is inserted/re-inserted whether new or previously existed, it always triggers a rebuilding for the Degraded RAID set/Volume.

"Disable" – it will not trigger rebuilding regardless what sort of disk plugging in. When "Disable" and/or "Blank Disk Only" is selected, the re-inserted/previously removed disk will be identified as a disk in a separate RAID set with duplicated RAIDset#

and with all the rest of RAID members missing.

• Disk Capacity Truncation Mode
Areca RAID controller uses drive truncation so that drives from differing vendors are more likely to be able to be used as spares for each other. Drive truncation slightly decreases the usable capacity of a drive that is used in redundant units. The controller provides three truncation modes in the system configuration: "**Multiples Of 10G"**, "**Multiples Of 1G"**, and "**Disabled'**.

Multiples Of 10G: If you have 120 GB drives from different vendors; chances are that the capacity varies slightly. For example, one drive might be 123.5 GB, and the other 120 GB. Multiples Of 10G truncates the number under tens. This makes same capacity for both of these drives so that one could replace the other.

Multiples Of 1G: If you have 123 GB drives from different vendors; chances are that the capacity varies slightly. For example, one drive might be 123.5 GB, and the other 123.4 GB. Multiples Of 1G truncates the fractional part. This makes capacity for both of these drives so that one could replace the other.

Disabled: It does not truncate the capacity.

• Smart Option For HDD
This option is used to increase the reliability of SSDs/HDDs by automatically copying data from a drive with potential to fail to a designated hot spare or newly inserted drive. The options are: "Failed The Drive", "Failed The Drive If Hot Sapre Exist", and "Alert Only". The default is "Alert Only"

"Failed The Drive" - controllers kill off the SMART fail drive immediately.

"Failed The Drive If Hot Sapre Exist" – controllers kill off the SMART fail disk if hot sapre dive is existed.

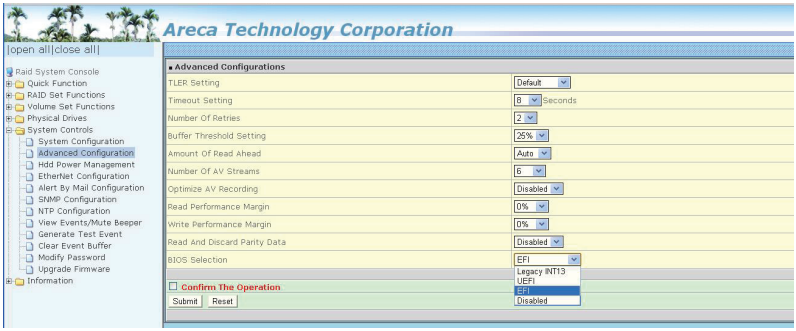
"Alert" – it will trigger alert when there happens a SMART fail drive.

- **Smart Polling Interval**

Besides the scheduled volume check, user can define the Smart Pulling Interval to pull the SMART status of each disk. The default is "on demand". User can schedule every certain period of time interval to pull the SMART status of each disk. When SMART pulling is executed, disk activity will be temporally halted until the SMART parameter reading is finished. That is why you don't want to set the " Smart Polling Interval" too frequent. What to use is up to the users to decide based on their applications and experimental results.

6.8.2 Advanced Configuration

To set the RAID system function, move the cursor to the main menu and click the "Advanced Configuration" link. The "Advanced Configuration" menu will show all items, and then select the desired function.



- **TLER Setting**

TLER (time-limited error recovery) functions provide support for WD Caviar RE (RAID) series disks. This is a new option from WD to support RAID features that were traditionally missing from standard desktop drives. TLER is a method of signaling the system RAID controller in the event that an error recovery process is taking longer than time-out specifications allow. This prevents the RAID controller from dropping the drive from the array during this period. Default value is manufacture setting. You can select between 5, 6 and 7 second. This feature is used to setup the HDD internal timeout value.

• Timeout Setting

Disk time-out is a registry setting that defines the time that RAID controller will wait for a hard disk to respond to a command. You can modify the retry value by entering a new value in the edit box beside this button and then selecting the button. Normally you should not need to modify this value. Default value is 8 seconds: You can select between 3~8 second.

• Number of Retries

This setting determines the number of access that will be attempted before the current command from the RAID controller to the disk drive is aborted. You can modify the retry value by entering a new value in the edit box beside this button and then selecting the button. Normally you should not need to modify this value. There are two selections, either 2 retry or 3 retry.

• Buffer Threshold

This new feature there are 3 options; 25%, 50%, 75%. The percentage represents how much data should be kept in resident cache memory (how full cache should get) before controller starts to flush data onto the hard drives. If the buffer is set for 25%, then all 25% will be cached and is used for writing data. The remaining cache memory will be used for reading and other system overhead. Write buffer threshold for 5% is added for video recording. This option will push data to disk early.

This feature gives controller extra buffer time in case of slow response from the hard drives within a given time. Consequently, this can prevent a pause in data flow and there will be continued data access and stream. This feature is very useful for the video streaming applications where there is high demand for constant non-stop data flow with no interruption due to lower performance of specific hardware.

• Amount of Read Ahead

Read-Ahead data is buffered in the RAID controller cache, however, thereby cutting down on the amount of I/O traffic to the disk. The Amount of Read Ahead defines how many data of reading at a time, making more efficient use of the RAID subsystem. This makes it possible to locate and re-issue the data without repetitive hard parsing activities.

The Amount of Read Ahead parameter is used to allocate an amount of memory in the cache memory the frequently executed queries and return the result set back to the host without real disk read execution. Default value is Auto: Controller will base on the HDD number to set the Amount of Read Ahead value. You can select between 512KB ~ 16MB.

• Number of AV Stream

RAID controllers are required to have not only the function of processing ordinary data but also the function of dealing with AV (audio/video) stream data needing real-time processing. Since the bus cycle used in RAID controller was designed to transfer the computer data exactly, it was unsuitable for the transfer of AV stream needing great band widths. They are required to do some setting for the handshaking during the processing of stream data. This setting is an object of transferring stream data efficiently on an existing RAID controller. Normally you should not need to modify this value. Default value is 6. You can select between 6~256.

To decide how to set AV stream play out parameter, you need to check the Number of Stream, Amount of Read Ahead, and Total Cache Memory during runtime. You can try to adjust the three numbers to get the best performance as your requirement. Number of AV Stream shows the number of stream added to the system, Amount of Read Ahead shows the Amount of Read Ahead data taken from the cache without real disk execution, and total cache memory shows the total available memory being installed in the RAID controller.

• Optimize AV Recording

AV recording option is for video recording (no time limit), but if used in normal operation, performance may be degraded. This new feature there are 4 options; Disabled, Mode1, Mode2 and Mode 3. Default value is Disabled. Our controller cache uses LRU method; there have no special memory capacity reserved for read or write. The Mode 1, 2 and 3 are used to define the command sorting method. The default sorting method is helpful for normal applications, but not useful for AV applications, so we have defined three different sorting methods for these special applications. To decide how to optimize AV stream recording parameter, you need to adjust the Optimize AV Recording, and

Write Buffer Threshold during runtime.

• Read Performance Margin
The "Read Performance Margin" is for controller to reserve n% read margin during AV stream recording. It is designed to eliminate the frame drop and ensure to provide the smooth and stable performance on the application.

• Write Performance Margin
The "Write Performance Margin" is for controller to reserve n% write margin AV stream recording. It is designed to eliminate the frame drop and ensure to provide the smooth and stable performance on the application.

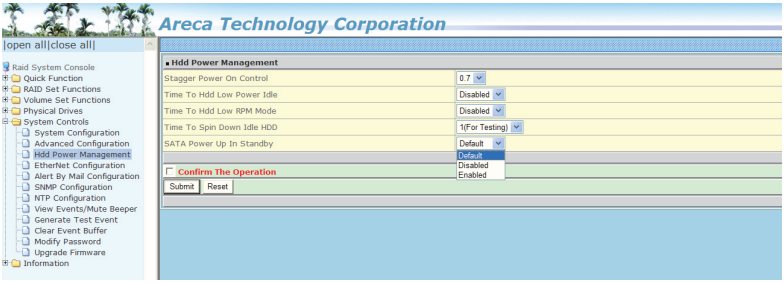
• Read And Discard Parity Data
This function is used to determine if parity data is to be read and discarded. It is designed to eliminate the frame drop and ensure to provide the smooth and stable performance on the application.

• BIOS Selection
It combines the "Legacy BIOS" and "UEFI BIOS" and "EFI BIOS" into a single BIOS, and provide BIOS option in the GUI. In the old days, Areca provided separate BIOS files for each, and need to manually flesh it in. Now fleshing BIOS for different BIOS type is no longer needed, just make the BIOS selection in **System Controls: Advance Configuration: BIOS Option**

BIOS Option
Legacy: for motherboards that are using regular BIOS boot.
UEFI: for motherboards (especially Intel's motherboards) using UEFI boot
EFI: for Intel based MacPro boot
Disable: disable controller BIOS at POST (set to 0xFF)
==> If BIOS is to be disabled --> All data are 0xFF

6.8.3 HDD Power Management

The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller has automated the ability to manage HDD power based on usage patterns. The "HDD Power Management" allows you to choose a "Stagger Power On Control", "Low Power Idle", "Low RPM" and completely "Spins Down Idle HDD". It is designed to reduce power consumption and heat generation on idle drives.



- **Stagger Power On Control**

In a PC system with only one or two drives, the power can supply enough power to spin up both drives simultaneously. But in systems with more than two drives, the startup current from spinning up the drives all at once can overload the power supply, causing damage to the power supply, disk drives and other system components. This damage can be avoided by allowing the host to stagger the spin-up of the drives. The SATA drives have supported the staggered spin-up capabilities to boost reliability. The staggered drive spin-up is a very useful feature for managing multiple disk drives in a storage subsystem. It gives the host the ability to spin up the disk drives sequentially or in groups, allowing the drives to come ready at the optimum time without straining the system power supply. The staggered drive spin-up in a multiple drive environment also avoids the extra cost of a power supply designed to meet short-term startup power demand as well as steady state conditions.

The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller has included the option for customer to select the disk drives sequentially staggered power up value. The values can be selected from 0.4 to 6 seconds per step which powers up one drive.

• Time to Hdd Low Power Idle
This option delivers lower power consumption by automatically unloading recording heads during the setting idle time. The values can be selected "Disabled" or within the range 2 to 7 minutes.

• Time To Hdd Low RPM Mode

This function can automatically spin disks at lower RPM if there have not been used during the setting idle time. The values can be selected "Disabled" or within the range 10 to 60 minutes.

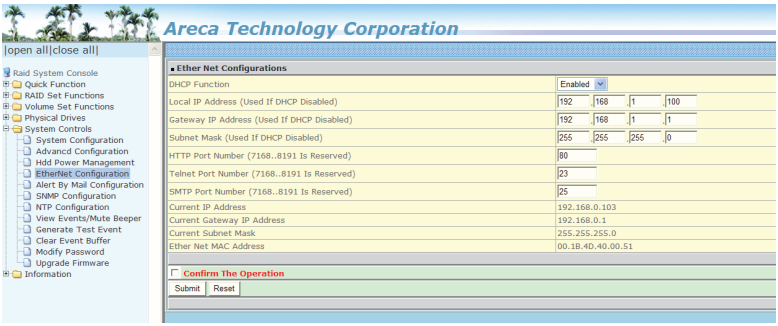
• Time To Spin Down Idle HDD
This function can automatically spin down the drive if it hasn't been accessed for a certain amount of time. This value is used by the drive to determine how long to wait (with no disk activity, before turning off the spindle motor to save power). The values can be selected "Disabled" or within the range 1 to 60 minutes.

• SATA Power Up In Standby
SATA Power Up In Standby (power management 2 mode, PM2) is a SATA disk drive configuration which prevents the drive from automatic spinup when power is applied. "Enabled" option allows the drive to be powered-up into the Standby power management state to minimize inrush current at power-up and to allow the controller to sequence the spinup of devices. It is mainly for server/workstation environments operating in multiple-drive configurations.

6.8.4 Ethernet Configuration

Use this feature to set the controller Ethernet port configuration. A customer doesn't need to create a reserved space on the arrays before the Ethernet port and HTTP service are working. The firmware-embedded web browser-based RAID manager can access it from any standard internet browser or from any host computer either directly connected or via a LAN or WAN with no software or patches required.

To configure the RAID controller Ethernet port, move the cursor bar to the main menu and click on the "System Controls" link. The "System Controls" menu will show all items. Move the cursor bar to the "Ethernet Configuration" item, and then select the desired function.



Note:

If you configure the HTTP port number to 0, the HTTP console will be closed.

- **DHCP Function**

DHCP (Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol) is a protocol that lets network administrators manage centrally and automate the assignment of IP (Internet Protocol) configurations on a computer network. When using the internet's set of protocols (TCP/IP), in order for a computer system to communicate to another computer system, it needs a unique IP address. Without DHCP, the IP address must be entered manually at each computer system. DHCP lets a network administrator supervise and distribute IP addresses from a central point. The purpose of DHCP is to provide the automatic (dynamic) allocation of IP client configurations for a specific time period (called a lease period) and to eliminate the work necessary to administer a large IP network.

- **Local IP address**

If you intend to set up your client computers manually (no DHCP), make sure that the assigned IP address is in the same range as the default router address and that it is unique to your private network. However, it is highly recommend to use DHCP if that option is available on your network. An IP address allocation scheme will reduce the time it takes to set-up client com-

puters and eliminate the possibilities of administrative errors and duplicate addresses. To manually configure the IP address of the controller, move the cursor bar to Local IP address item, then reassign the static IP address of the controller.

- **Gateway IP address**

A gateway is a node (a router) on a TCP/IP network that serves as an access point to another network. A default gateway is the node on the computer network that the network software uses when an IP address does not match any other routes in the routing table.

- **Subnet Mask**

A Subnet mask is a 32-bit number that masks an IP address, and divides the IP address into network address and host address.

- **HTTP Port Number**

To manually configure the "HTTP Port Number" of the controller, move the cursor bar to "HTTP Port Number" item, then reassign the default "HTTP Port Number" of the controller.

- **Telnet Port Number**

To manually configure the "Telnet Port Number" of the controller, move the cursor bar to "Telnet Port Number" item, then reassign the default "Telnet Port Number" of the controller.

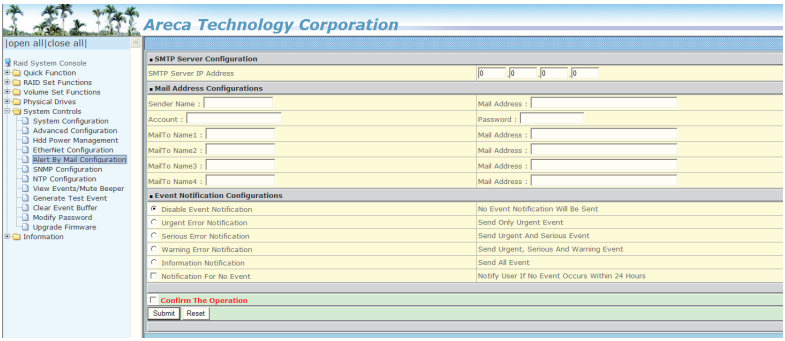
- **SMTP Port Number**

To manually configure the "SMTP Port Number" of the controller, Move the cursor bar to "SMTP Port Number" item, then reassign the default "SMTP Port Number" of the controller.

6.8.5 Alert By Mail Configuration

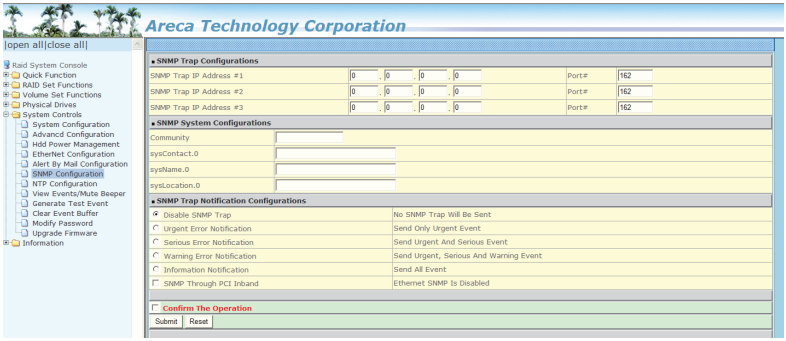
To configure the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller e-mail function, move the cursor bar to the main menu and click on the "System Controls" link. The "System Controls" menu will show all items. Move the cursor bar to the "Alert By Mail Configuration" item, then select the desired function. This function can only be set via web-based configuration.

The firmware contains a SMTP manager monitoring all system events. Single or multiple user notifications can be sent via "Plain English" e-mails with no software required. (Please refer to section 5.6 "ArcHttp Configuration" of SMTP Sever Configuration, Mail Address Configuration and Event Notification Configuration.)



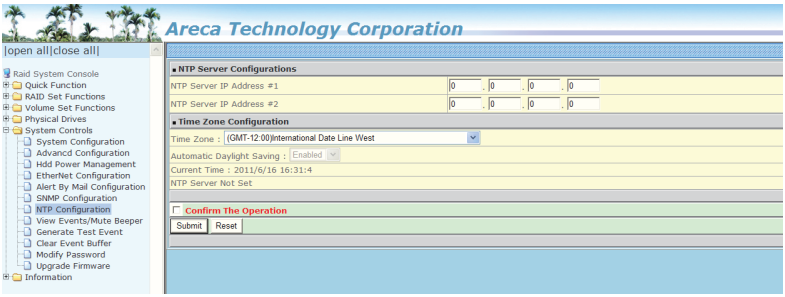
6.8.6 SNMP Configuration

Please refer to Appendix C of SNMP Operation & Installation.



6.8.7 NTP Configuration

The Network Time Protocol (NTP) is used to synchronize the time of a computer client or server to another server or reference time source, such as a radio or satellite receiver or modem. It provides accuracies typically within a millisecond on LANs and up to a few tens of milliseconds on WANs relative to Coordinated Universal Time (UTC) via a Global Positioning Service (GPS) receiver, for example:



• NTP Sever Address

The most important factor in providing accurate, reliable time is the selection of NTP servers to be used in the configuration file. Typical NTP configurations utilize multiple redundant servers and diverse network paths in order to achieve high accuracy and reliability. Our NTP configuration supports two existing public NTP synchronization subnets.

• Time Zone

Time Zone conveniently runs in the system tray and allows you to easily view the date and time in various locations around the world. You can also quickly and easily add your own personal locations to customize time zone the way you want.

• Automatic Daylight Saving

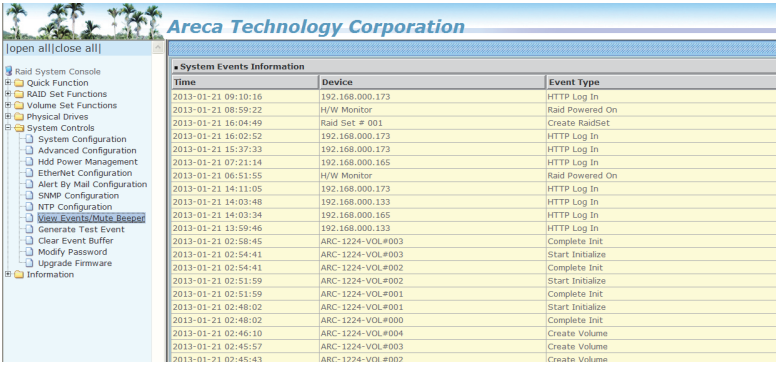
Automatic Daylight Saving will normally attempt to automatically adjust the system clock for daylight saving changes based on the computer time zone. This tweak allows you to disable the automatic adjustment.

Note:

NTP feature works through onboard Ethernet port. So you must make sure that you have connected onboard Ethernet port.

6.8.8 View Events/Mute Beeper

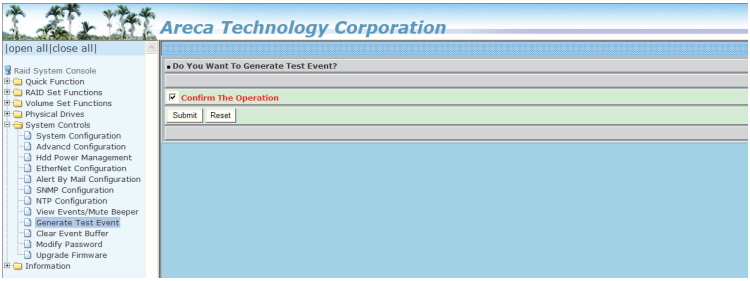
To view the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller's event information, click on the "View Event/Mute Beeper" link. The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller "System events Information" screen appears.
The mute beeper function automatically enable by clicking on "View Events/Mute Beeper".



Select this option to view the system events information: Time, Device, Event Type, Elapse Time and Errors. The RAID controller does not have a built-in real time clock. The time information is the relative time from the system time setting. The maximum event no. is 256 per controller.

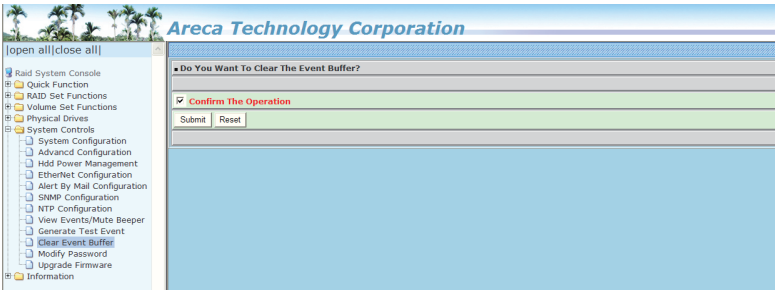
6.8.9 Generate Test Event

Use this feature is generate events for testing purposes.



6.8.10 Clear Events Buffer

Use this feature to clear the entire events buffer information.

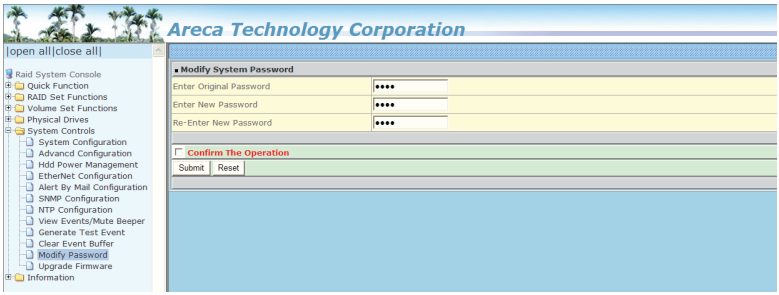


6.8.11 Modify Password

To set or change the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller password, select "System Controls" from the menu and click on the "Modify Password" link. The "Modify System Password" screen appears.

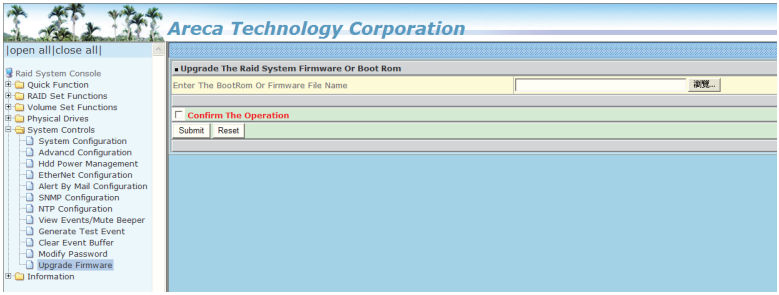
The manufacture default password is set to 0000.
The password option allows user to set or clear the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller's password protection feature. Once the password has been set, the user can only monitor and configure the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller by providing the correct password. The password is used to protect the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller from unauthorized entry. The controller will check the password only when entering the main menu from the initial screen. The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller will automatically go back to the initial screen when it does not receive any command in 5 minutes. Do not use spaces when you enter the password, If spaces are used, it will lock out the user.

To disable the password, leave the fields blank. Once the user confirms the operation and clicks the "Submit" button, the existing password will be cleared. Then, no password checking will occur when entering the main menu from the starting screen.



6.8.12 Update Firmware

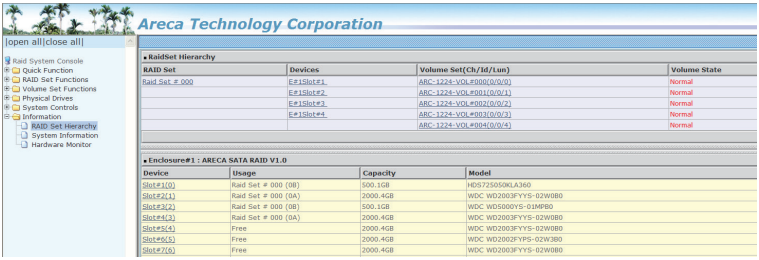
Please refer to the appendix A "Upgrading Flash ROM Update Process".



6.9 Information

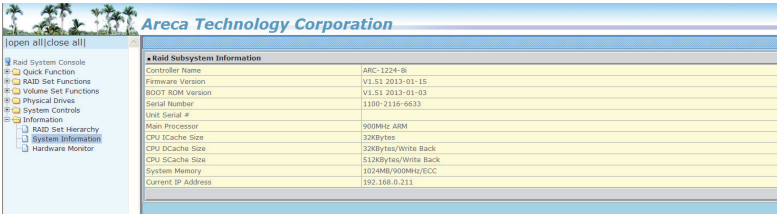
6.9.1 Raid Set Hierarchy

Use this feature to view the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller current RAID set, current volume set and physical disk information. The volume state and capacity are also shown on this screen.



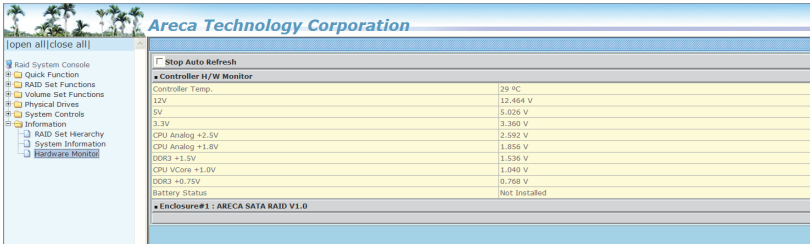
6.9.2 System Information

To view the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller's system information, move the mouse cursor to the main menu and click on the "System Information" link. The 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller "RAID Subsystem Information" screen appears.
Use this feature to view the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller's system information. The controller name, controller firmware version, Boot ROM version, SATA firmware version, serial number, main processor, CPU instruction/data cache size, system memory size/ speed and current IP address appear in this screen.



6.9.3 Hardware Monitor

The hardware monitor information of this controller is shown on this screen.



Appendix A

Upgrading Flash ROM Update Process

A-1 Overview

Since the ARC-12x4 RAID controllers feature flash ROM firmware, it is not necessary to change the hardware flash chip in order to upgrade the RAID firmware. The user can simply re-program the old firmware through the in-band PCIe bus or out-of-band Ethernet port McRAID Storage manager and nflash DOS utility. New releases of the firmware are available in the form of a DOS file on the shipped CD or Areca website. The files available at the FTP site for each model contain the following files in each version:

ARC12x4NNNN.BIN Software Binary Code ("NNNN" refers to the software code type)
ARC12x4BIOS.BIN:→ PCIe 2.0 BIOS for system board using
ARC12x4BOOT.BIN:→ RAID controller hardware initialization
ARC12x4FIRM.BIN:→ RAID kernel program
ARC12x4MBR0.BIN:→ Master Boot Record for supporting Dual Flash Image in the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller

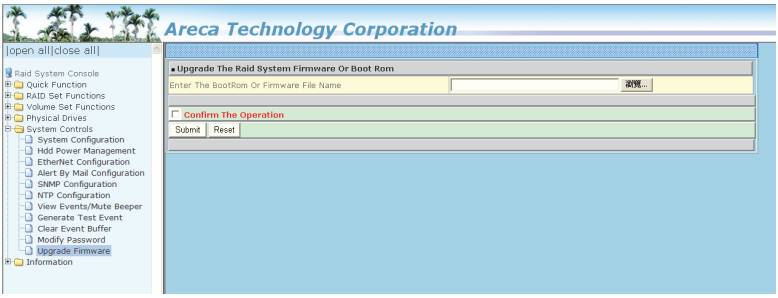
README.TXT contains the history information of the software code change in the main directory. Read this file first to make sure you are upgrading to the proper binary file. Select the right file for the upgrade. Normally, user upgrades the ARC12x4BIOS.BIN for system M/B compatibility and ARC12x4FIRM.BIN for RAID function. All these files in the firmware package are a part of the firmware. You should update all files in the package, no special update order needed. New firmware works after a system restart not instant available, so you can update all files before restart the system. The controller firmware is independent of the array, and update firmware does not touch anything you stored in the array.

Note:

Please update all binary code (BIOS, BOOT FIRM and MBR0) before you reboot system. Otherwise, a mixed firmware package may hang the controller.

A-2 Upgrading Firmware Through McRAID Storage Manager

Get the new version firmware for your 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller. For example, download the bin file from your OEM's web site onto the C: drive.



1. To upgrade the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller firmware, move the mouse cursor to "Upgrade Firmware" link. The "Upgrade The Raid System Firmware or Boot Rom" screen appears.

2. Click "Browse". Look in the location to which the Firmware upgrade software was downloaded. Select the file name and click "Open".

3. Click "Confirm The Operation" and press the "Submit" button.

4. The web browser begins to download the firmware binary to the controller and start to update the flash ROM.

5. After the firmware upgrade is complete, a bar indicator will show "Firmware Has Been Updated Successfully".

6. After the new firmware package completes downloading, find a chance to restart the controller/computer for the new firmware to take effect.

The web browser-based McRAID storage manager can be accessed through the in-band PCIe bus or out-of-band LAN port. The in-band method uses the ArcHttp proxy server to launch the McRAID storage manager. The out-of-band method allows local or remote to access the McRAID storage manager from any standard internet

browser via a LAN or WAN with no software or patches required. Controller with onboard LAN port, you can directly plug an Ethernet cable to the controller LAN port, then enter the McBIOS RAID manager to configure the network setting. After network setting configured and saved, you can find the current IP address in the McBIOS RAID manager "System Information" page.

From a remote pc, you can directly open a web browser and enter the IP address. Then enter user name and password to login and start your management. You can find the firmware update feature from the "Raid System Console" on the "System Controls" option.

A-3 Upgrading Firmware Through nflash DOS Utility

Areca now offers an alternative means communication for the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller – Upgrade the all files (BIOS, BOOT, FIRM and MBR0) without necessary system starting up to running the ArcHttp proxy server. The nflash utility program is a DOS application, which runs in the DOS operating system. Be sure of ensuring properly to communicate between 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller and nflash DOS utility. Please make a bootable DOS floppy diskette or USB devices from other Windows operating system and boot up the system from those bootable devices.

• Starting the nflash Utility

You do not need to short any jumper cap on running nflash utility. The nflash utility provides an on-line table of contents, brief descriptions of the help sub-commands. The nflash utility put on the <CD-ROM>\Firmware directory. You can run the <nflash> to get more detailed information about the command usage. Typical output looks as below:

```
A:\nflash
Raid Controller Flash Utility
V1.11 2007-11-8
Command Usage:
NFLASH FileName
NFLASH FileName /cn --> n=0,1,2,3 write binary to controller#0
FileName May Be ARC12x4FIRM.BIN or ARC12x4*
For ARC12x4* Will Expand To ARC12x4BOOT /FIRM/BIOS.BIN

A:\>nflash arc12x~1.bin
Raid Controller Flash Utility
V1.11 2007-11-8
MODEL : ARC-12x4
MEM FE620000 FE7FF000
File ARC12x~1.BIN : >>*** => Flash 0K
```

A-4 Upgrading Firmware Through CLI

This Command Line Interface (CLI) provides you to configure and manage the 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller components in Windows, Linux, FreeBSD and more environments. The CLI is useful in environments where a graphical user interface (GUI) is not available. Through the CLI, you perform firmware upgrade that you can perform with the McRAID storage manager GUI. The controller has added protocol on the firmware for user to update the controller firmware package (BIOS, BOOT, FIRM and MBR0) through the utility.

To update the controller firmware, follow the procedure below:

```
Parameter:<path=<PATH_OF_FIRMWARE_FILE>>
Fn: Firmware Updating.
Ex: Update Firmware And File Path Is In [C:\FW\ARC12x4FIRM.BIN.]
Command: sys updatefw path=c:\fw\arc12x4firm.bin [Enter]
```

Appendix B

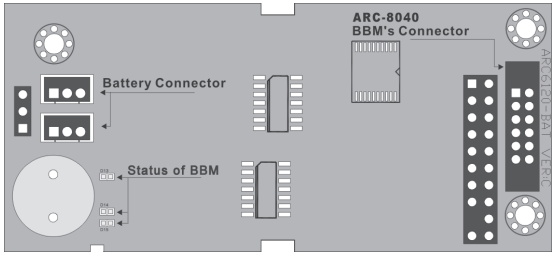
Battery Backup Module (ARC6120BA-T121)

ARC-12x4 PCIe 2.0 RAID controllers operate using cache memory. The Battery Backup Module is an add-on module that provides power to the RAID controller cache memory in the event of a power failure. The BBM monitors the write back cache on the RAID controller, and provides power to the cache memory if it contains data not yet written to the hard drives when power failure occurs.

B-1 BBM Connector and Components

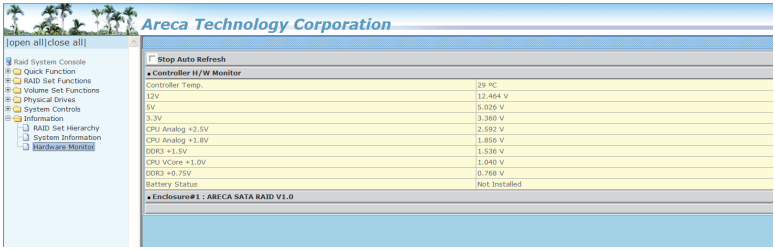
This section provides the board layout and connector/jumper for the BBM.

- D13 (Green): light when BBM activated
- D14 (Red): light when BBM charging
- D15 (Green): light when BBM normal



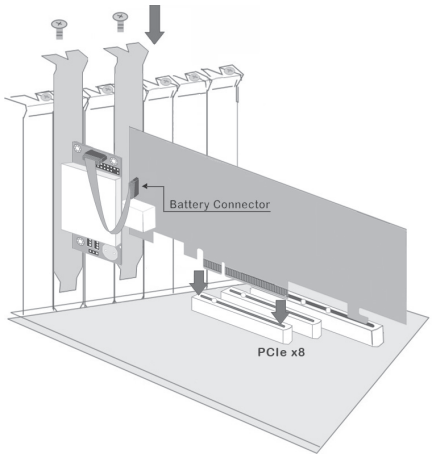
B-2 Status of BBM

The BBM status will be shown on the web browser of "Hardware Monitor Information" screen.



B-3 Installation

1. Make sure all power to the system is disconnected.
2. The 6Gb/s SAS RAID controller's battery connector is available for the optional battery backup module. Connect the BBM cable to the 12-pin battery connector on the controller.
3. Integrators may provide pre-drilled holes in their cabinet for securing the BBM using its three mounting positions (NH1, NH2 and NH3)
4. Low profile bracket also provided.
5. The BBM will occupy one PCI slot on the host system.



B-4 Battery Backup Capacity

Battery backup capacity is defined as the maximum duration of a power failure for which data in the cache memory can be maintained by the battery. The BBM's backup capacity varied with the memory chips that installed on the ARC-12x4 RAID controller.

B-5 Operation

1. Battery conditioning is automatic. There are no manual procedures for battery conditioning or preconditioning to be performed by the user.

2. In order to make sure of all the capacity is available for your

battery cells, allow the battery cell to be fully charged when installed for the first time. The first time charge of a battery cell takes about 24 hours to complete.

3. Set the "Disk Write Cache Mode": Auto, if "Disk Write Cache" option does not set on the "Auto".

4. Set the volume set "Cache Mode": Write-Back Cache.

B-6 Battery Functionality Test Procedure:

1. Writing amount of data into controller volume, about 5GB or bigger.

2. Waiting for few seconds, power failed system by remove the power cable.

3. Check the battery status, make sure the D9 is bright light, and battery beeps every few seconds.

4. Power on system, and press Tab/F6 to login controller.

5. Check the controller event log; make sure the event shows controller boot up with power recovered.

Note:

Do not remove BBM while system is running.

B-7 Changing the Battery Backup Module

At some point, the LI-ION battery will no longer accept a charge properly. LI-ION battery life expectancy is anywhere from approximately 1 to 5 years.

1. Shutdown the operating system properly. Make sure that cache memory has been flushed.

2. Disconnect the BBM cable from ARC-12x4 RAID controller battery connector.

3. Disconnect the battery pack cable from JP2 on the BBM.

4. Install a new battery pack and connect the new battery pack to JP2.

5. Connect the BBM to ARC-12x4 RAID controller's battery connector.

B-8 BBM Specifications

Mechanical
• Module Dimension (W x H x D)
37.3 x 13 x 81.6 mm

Environmental
• Operating Temperature
Temperature: 0^{O} C to $+40^{O}$ C
Humidity: 45-85%, non-condensing

• Storage Temperature
Temperature: -40^{O} C to 60^{O} C
Humidity: 45-85%, non-condensing

• Electrical
Input Voltage
+3.6VDC

• On Board Battery Capacity
1880mAH (1 * 1880mAH) for ARC-12x4 RAID controller

Appendix C

SNMP Operation & Installation

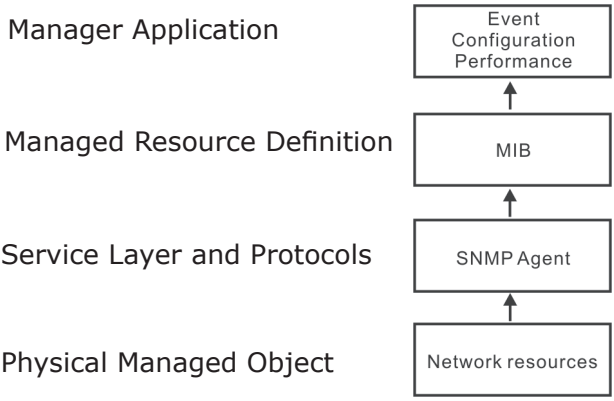
C-1 Overview

The McRAID storage manager includes a firmware-embedded Simple Network Management Protocol (SNMP) agent for the Areca RAID controller. An SNMP-based management application (also known as an SNMP manager) can monitor the disk array. An example of a SNMP management application is Hewlett-Packard's Open View, Net-SNMP or SNMPc. The SNMP extension agent can be used to augment the Areca RAID controller through PCIe host bus interface if you are already running an SNMP management application at your site.

C-2 SNMP Definition

SNMP, an IP-based protocol, has a set of commands for getting the status of target devices. The SNMP management platform is called the SNMP manager, and the managed devices have the SNMP agent loaded. Management data is organized in a hierarchical data structure called the Management Information Base (MIB). These MIBs are defined and sanctioned by various industry associations. Each type of device on your network has its own specific MIB file. The MIB file defines the device as a set of managed objects — values that can be read or changed by the SNMP manager. The MIB file enables the SNMP manager to interpret trap messages from devices. To make sense out of a trap that's sent by a device, the SNMP manager needs to have access to the MIB that describes the format and content of the possible traps that the device can send. The objective is for all vendors to create products in compliance with these MIBs so that inter-vendor interoperability can be achieved. To be available for the SNMP manager, a command adds the MIB file for each of devices to the MIB database. This enables the devices to be managed via the SNMP manager.

The following figure illustrates the various components of an SNMP-based management architecture.



C-3 SNMP Installation

Perform the following steps to install the Areca RAID controller SNMP function into the SNMP manager. The installation of the SNMP manager is accomplished in several phases:

Step 1. Installing the SNMP manager software on the client

Installing the SNMP manager software on the client. This installation process is well-covered in the User's Guide of your SNMP manager application.

Step 2. Compiling the MIB description file with the management

Placing a copy of the RAID controller's MIBs file in a directory which is accessible to the management application and compile the MIB description file with the SNMP management application database. Before the manager application accesses the Areca RAID controller, it is necessary to integrate the MIB into the management application's database of events and status indicator codes. This process is known as "compiling" the MIB into the application. This process is highly vendor-specific and should be well-covered in the User's Guide of your SNMP manager application. Ensure the compilation process successfully integrates the contents of the areca_SATA.mib file into the traps database. The MIBs file resides at: <CD-ROM>\packages\SNMP_MIBs on the software CD or download from http://www.areca.com.tw.

Each RAID controller needs to have its own MIBs file. Areca provide 4 adapters MIBs file for users. User can request it if more controllers install on one system.

Note:

1.The MIB compiler may be not installed by default with SNMP manager.
2. Some SNMP managers have unique rule on the format of MIB files, you may need to refer the error message to modify the mib file to be able to met the software requirement.

Step 3. SNMP Service Method

With Areca series RAID cards, there are 3 service methods to get SNMP:
ArcHttp, onboard NIC and in-band PCIe + SNMP extension agent.

(1). Service Method-1: using ArcHttp proxy server
Pay attention to these:
• Do not check mark the option: "SNMP Through PCI".
• Make sure you have the latest driver and ArcHttp, from this URL http://www.areca.com.tw/support/
• ArcHttp supports sending "traps" only, do not support the "get" command.

(2). Service Method-2: using onboard NIC.
Pay attention to these:
• Do not check mark the option: "SNMP Through PCI".
• Do need to fill out the "SNMP Trap Config".

(3). Service Method-3: using in-band PCIe + SNMP extension agent.
Pay attention to these:
• Download the SNMP extension agent from Areca URL.
• The agent is to be installed on the system which has the Areca controller.
• Check Mark the option: "SNMP Through PCI".
• To use in-band PCIe host bus interface, keep space (or zero) on all "SNMP Tarp IP Address" options.

C-3-1 Using ArcHttp

The HTTP management software (Archttp) runs as a service or daemon, and has it automatically start the proxy for all controllers found. This way the controller can be managed remotely without having to sign in the server. The Archttp has also integrated the ability of sending SNMP trap. Please reference the manual Chapter 3 "ArcHttp Proxy Server Installation" section to install and setup its configuration.

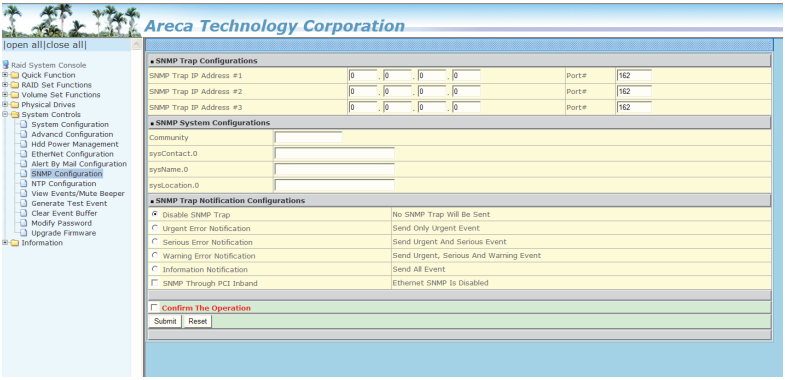
To enable the controller to send the SNMP traps to client SNMP manager using the IP address assigned to the operating system, such as Net-SNMP manager, you can simply use the SNMP function on the ArcHttp proxy server utility. To enable the RAID controller SNMP traps sending function, configure the "SNMP Traps Configuration" options on the "ArcHTTP Configurations". The Archttp proxy only provides one direction to send the trap to the SNMP manager without needing to install the SNMP extension agent on the host. For detailed information on using Archttp proxy server utility to send the SNMP traps, please see "SNMP Traps Configuration" section on 5.6 "Archttp Configuration".

If SNMP manager requests to query the SNMP information from RAID controller, please refer the C-3-2 section - Using Onboard NIC and C-3-3 section - Using In-band PCIe+ SNMP extension agent.

C-3-2 Using Onboard NIC Installation

By using the built-in LAN port on the RAID controller- RAID controller using built-in LAN interface. You can use the browser-based manager or CLI SNMP configuration to setup the firmware-based SNMP configuration. The following screen is the firmware-embedded SNMP configuration setup screen using browser-based manager:

To launch the above browser-based RAID controller SNMP function, click on the "System Controls" link. The "System Controls" menu will show available items. Select the "SNMP Configuration" item. The firmware-embedded SNMP agent manager monitors all system events and the SNMP function becomes functional with no agent software required.



When you open the "SNMP Configuration" link, you will see the following settings:

(1). SNMP Trap Configurations

Enter the SNMP Trap IP Address.

(2). SNMP System Configurations

Community name acts as a password to screen accesses to the SNMP agent of a particular network device. Type in the community names of the SNMP agent. Before access is granted to a request station, this station must incorporate a valid community name into its request; otherwise, the SNMP agent will deny access to the system. Most network devices use "public" as default of their community names. This value is case-sensitive. The system Contact, Name and Location that will be shown on the outgoing SNMP trap.

(3). SNMP Trap Notification Configurations

Please refer to Appendix D "Event Notification Configurations".

Note:

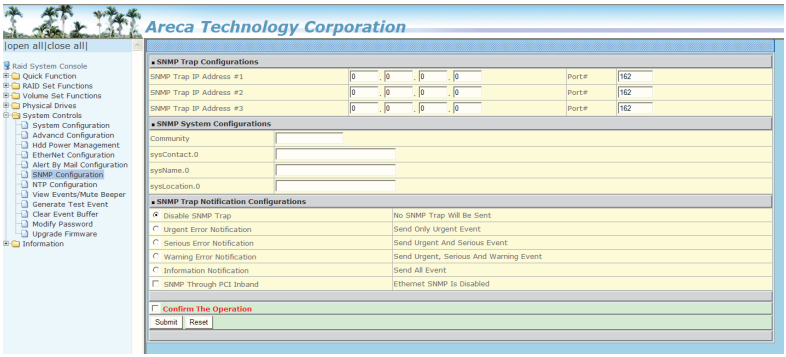
After you confirm and submit configurations, you can use "Generate Test Event" feature to make sure these settings are correct.

C-3-3 Using In-band PCIe + SNMP extension agent Installation

By using the IP address assigned to the operating- RAID controller using Areca SNMP extension agent through PCIe host bus interface.

a). Set only "Community" field and keep space (or zero) on all "SNMP Tarp IP Address" options on the firmware-embedded SNMP configuration function. There is no function to set other fields on "SNMP System Configuration".

The SNMP "Community" and "SNMP Tarp IP Address" can setup by using browser-based manager or CLI SNMP configuration. To launch the browser-based RAID controller SNMP function, click on the "System Controls" link. The "System Controls" menu will show available items. Select the "SNMP Configuration" item. The following "SNMP System Configuration" screen is launched by browser-based manager.



About community, Community name acts as a password to screen accesses to the SNMP agent of a particular network device. Type in the community names of the SNMP agent. Before access is granted to a request station, this station must incorporate a valid community name into its request; otherwise, the SNMP agent will deny access to the system.

Most network devices use "public" as default of their community names. This value is case-sensitive.

b). Mark the check box on the 'SNMP Through PCI Inband" setting

and keep space (or zero) on all "SNMP Tarp IP Address" options.

c). Installing the SNMP extension agent on the server which has the Areca controller.

Please refer to next section of "SNMP Extension Agent Installation" for different operation system such as Windows, Linux and FreeBSD.

C-3-4 SNMP Extension Agent Installation

The SNMP extension agent on the device is able to return meaningful, highly useful information to the SNMP manager. The Areca RAID controllers have supported the extension agent for Windows, Linux and FreeBSD. This section is the detail procedures for those extension agent installations.

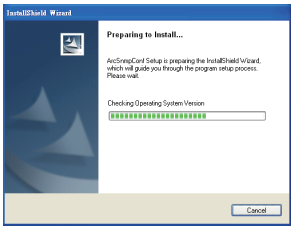
C-3-4-1 Windows

You must have administrative level permission to install 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller extension agent software. This procedure assumes that the RAID hardware and Windows are both installed and operational in your system.

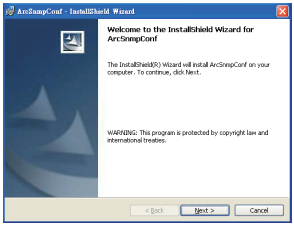
To enable the SNMP agent for Windows, configure Windows for TCP/IP and SNMP services. The Areca SNMP extension agent file is ARCSNMP.DLL. Screen captures in this section are taken from a Windows XP installation. If you are running another version of Windows, your screens may look different, but the Areca SNMP extension agent installation is essentially the same.

1. Insert the Areca RAID controller software CD in the CD-ROM drive.

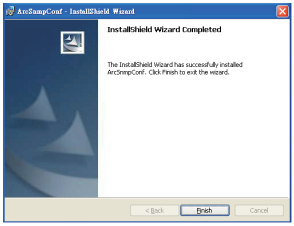
2. Run the setup.exe file that resides at: <CD-ROM>\packages\windows\SNMP\setup.exe on the CD. (If SNMP service was not installed, please install SNMP service first.)



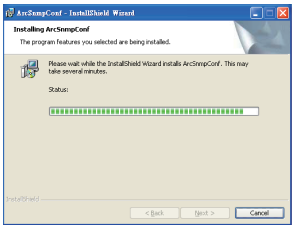
3. Click on the "setup.exe" file then the welcome screen appears.



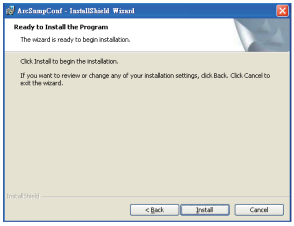
4. Click the "Next" button and then the "Ready Install the Program" screen will appear. Follow the on-screen prompts to complete Areca SNMP extension agent installation.



5. A Progress bar appears that measures the progress of the Areca SNMP extension agent setup. When this screen completes, you have completed the Areca SNMP extension agent setup.



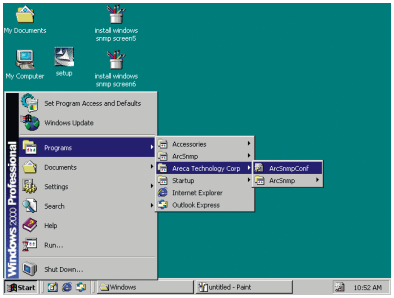
6. After a successful installation, the “Setup Complete” dialog box of the installation program is displayed. Click the “Finish” button to complete the installation.



Starting SNMP Trap Notification Configurations

To start "SNMP Trap Notification Configruations", there have two methods. First, double-click on the "Areca RAID Controller".

Second, you may also use the "Taskbar Start/programs/Areca Technology Corp/ArcSnmpConf" menus shown below.

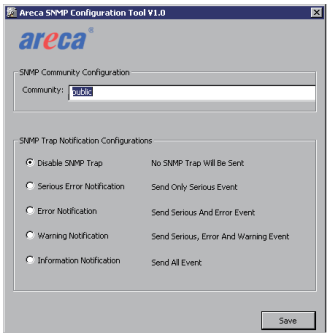


SNMP Community Configurations

About community, Community name acts as a password to screen accesses to the SNMP agent of a particular network device. Type in the community names of the SNMP agent. Before access is granted to a request station, this station must incorporate a valid community name into its request; otherwise, the SNMP agent will deny access to the system. Most network devices use “public” as default of their community names. This value is case-sensitive.

SNMP Trap Notification Configurations

The "Community Name" should be the same as firmware-embedded SNMP Community. The "SNMP Trap Notification Configurations" includes level 1: Serious, level 2: Error, level 3: Warning and level 4: Information. The level 4 covers notification events such as initialization of the controller and initiation of the rebuilding process; Level 3 includes events which require the issuance of warning messages; Level 2 covers notification events which once have happen; Level 1 is the highest level, and covers events the need immediate attention (and action) from the administrator.



C-3-4-2 Linux

You must have administrative level permission to install Areca RAID software. This procedure assumes that the Areca RAID hardware and Linux are installed and operational in your system. The old version agent has to modify the open source project, integrate the changes from Areca manually, then take the modified binaries and manually deploy them. Users need to change source code from the linux distribution and then maintain it by themselves.

The new version agent provides the way to integrate with those codes into snmpd/snmptrapd and create a sub agent for user easy to install it. The new version SNMP extension agent installation for Linux procedure, please refer to <CD-ROM>\packages\Linux\SNMP\readme.txt or download from ftp://ftp.areca.com.tw/RaidCards/AP_Drivers/Linux/SNMP/V4.1/ .

C-3-4-3 FreeBSD

You must have administrative level permission to install Areca RAID software. This procedure assumes that the Areca RAID hardware and FreeBSD are installed and operational in your system. The old version agent has to modify the open source project, integrate the changes from Areca manually, then take the modified binaries and manually deploy them. Users need to change source code from the linux distribution and then maintain it by themselves.

The new version agent provides the way to integrate with those codes into snmpd/snmptrapd and create a sub agent for user easy to install it. The new version SNMP extension agent installation for FreeBSD procedure, please refer to <CD-ROM>\packages\FreeBSD\SNMP\readme.txt or download from ftp://ftp.areca.com.tw/RaidCards/AP_Drivers/FreeBSD/SNMP/V4.1/ .

Appendix D

Event Notification Configurations

The controller classifies disk array events into four levels depending on their severity. These include level 1: Urgent, level 2: Serious, level 3: Warning and level 4: Information. The level 4 covers notification events such as initialization of the controller and initiation of the rebuilding process; Level 2 covers notification events which once have happen; Level 3 includes events which require the issuance of warning messages; Level 1 is the highest level, and covers events that need immediate attention (and action) from the administrator. The following lists sample events for each level:

A. Device Event

Event	Level	Meaning	Action
Device Inserted	Warning	HDD inserted	
Device Removed	Warning	HDD removed	
Reading Error	Warning	HDD reading error	Keep Watching HDD status, may be it caused by noise or HDD unstable.
Writing Error	Warning	HDD writing error	Keep Watching HDD status, may be it caused by noise or HDD unstable.
ATA Ecc Error	Warning	HDD ECC error	Keep Watching HDD status, may be it caused by noise or HDD unstable.
Change ATA Mode	Warning	HDD change ATA mode	Check HDD connection
Time Out Error	Warning	HDD time out	Keep Watching HDD status, may be it caused by noise or HDD unstable.
Device Failed	Urgent	HDD failure	Replace HDD
PCI Parity Error	Serious	PCI parity error	If only happen once, it may be caused by noise. If always happen, please check power supply or contact to us.
Device Failed(SMART)	Urgent	HDD SMART failure	Replace HDD

PassThrough Disk Created	Inform	Pass Through Disk created	
PassThrough Disk Modified	Inform	Pass Through Disk modified	
PassThrough Disk Deleted	Inform	Pass Through Disk deleted	

B. Volume Event

Event	Level	Meaning	Action
Start Initialize	Warning	Volume initialization has started	
Start Rebuilding	Warning	Volume rebuilding has started	
Start Migrating	Warning	Volume migration has started	
Start Checking	Warning	Volume parity checking has started	
Complete Init	Warning	Volume initialization completed	
Complete Rebuild	Warning	Volume rebuilding completed	
Complete Migrate	Warning	Volume migration completed	
Complete Check	Warning	Volume parity checking completed	
Create Volume	Warning	New volume created	
Delete Volume	Warning	Volume deleted	
Modify Volume	Warning	Volume modified	
Volume Degraded	Urgent	Volume degraded	Replace HDD
Volume Failed	Urgent	Volume failure	
Failed Volume Revived	Urgent	Failed volume revived	
Abort Initialization	Warning	Initialization been abort	
Abort Rebuilding	Warning	Rebuilding aborted	
Abort Migration	Warning	Migration aborted	
Abort Checking	Warning	Parity check aborted	
Stop Initialization	Warning	Initialization stopped	
Stop Rebuilding	Warning	Rebuilding stopped	
Stop Migration	Warning	Migration stopped	
Stop Checking	Warning	Parity check stopped	

C. RAID Set Event

Event	Level	Meaning	Action
Create RaidSet	Warning	New RAID set created	
Delete RaidSet	Warning	Raidset deleted	
Expand RaidSet	Warning	Raidset expanded	
Rebuild RaidSet	Warning	Raidset rebuilding	
RaidSet Degraded	Urgent	Raidset degraded	Replace HDD

D. Hardware Monitor Event

Event	Level	Meaning	Action
DRAM 1-Bit ECC	Urgent	DRAM 1-Bit ECC error	Check DRAM
DRAM Fatal Error	Urgent	DRAM fatal error encountered	Check the DRAM module and replace with new one if required.
Controller Over Temperature	Urgent	Abnormally high temperature detected on controller (over 60 degree)	Check air flow and cooling fan of the enclosure, and contact us.
Hdd Over Temperature	Urgent	Abnormally high temperature detected on Hdd (over 55 degree)	Check air flow and cooling fan of theenclosure.
Fan Failed	Urgent	Cooling Fan # failure or speed below 1700RPM	Check cooling fan of the enclosure and replace with a new one if required.
Controller Temp. Recovered	Serious	Controller temperature back tonormal level	
Hdd Temp. Recovered	Serious	Hdd temperature back tonormal level	
Raid Powered On	Warning	RAID power on	
Test Event	Urgent	Test event	
Power On With Battery Backup	Warning	RAID power on with battery backuped	
Incomplete RAID Discovered	Serious	Some RAID set member disks missing before power on	Check disk information to find out which channel missing.
HTTP Log In	Serious	a HTTP login detected	

Telnet Log	Serious	a Telnet login detected	
API Log In	Serious	a API login detected	
Lost Rebuilding/ MigrationLBA	Urgent	Some rebuilding/ migration raidset member disks missing before power on.	Reinserted the missing member disk back, controller will continued the incompleted rebuilding/migration.

Appendix E

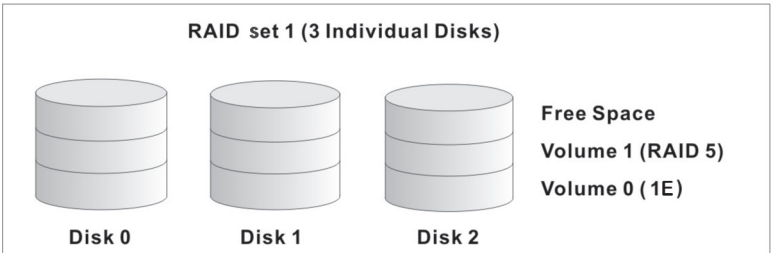
RAID Concept

RAID Set

A RAID set is a group of disks connected to a RAID controller. A RAID set contains one or more volume sets. The RAID set itself does not define the RAID level (0, 1, 1E, 3, 5, 6, 10, 30, 50 60, etc); the RAID level is defined within each volume set. Therefore, volume sets are contained within RAID sets and RAID Level is defined within the volume set. If physical disks of different capacities are grouped together in a RAID set, then the capacity of the smallest disk will become the effective capacity of all the disks in the RAID set.

Volume Set

Each volume set is seen by the host system as a single logical device (in other words, a single large virtual hard disk). A volume set will use a specific RAID level, which will require one or more physical disks (depending on the RAID level used). RAID level refers to the level of performance and data protection of a volume set. The capacity of a volume set can consume all or a portion of the available disk capacity in a RAID set. Multiple volume sets can exist in a RAID set. For the RAID controller, a volume set must be created either on an existing RAID set or on a group of available individual disks (disks that are about to become part of a RAID set). If there are pre-existing RAID sets with available capacity and enough disks for the desired RAID level, then the volume set can be created in the existing RAID set of the user's choice.



In the illustration, volume 1 can be assigned a RAID level 5 of operation while volume 0 might be assigned a RAID level 1E of operation. Alternatively, the free space can be used to create volume 2, which could then be set to use RAID level 5.

Ease of Use Features

• Foreground Availability/Background Initialization

RAID 0 and RAID 1 volume sets can be used immediately after creation because they do not create parity data. However, RAID 3, 5, 6, 30, 50 or 60 volume sets must be initialized to generate parity information. In Background Initialization, the initialization proceeds as a background task, and the volume set is fully accessible for system reads and writes. The operating system can instantly access the newly created arrays without requiring a reboot and without waiting for initialization to complete. Furthermore, the volume set is protected against disk failures while initialing. If using Foreground Initialization, the initialization process must be completed before the volume set is ready for system accesses.

• Online Array Roaming

RAID controllers store RAID configuration information on the disk drives. The controller therefore protects the configuration settings in the event of controller failure. Online array roaming allows the administrators the ability to move a complete RAID set to another system without losing RAID configuration information or data on that RAID set. Therefore, if a server fails, the RAID set disk drives can be moved to another server with an Areca RAID controllers and the disks can be inserted in any order.

• Online Capacity Expansion

Online Capacity Expansion makes it possible to add one or more physical drives to a volume set without interrupting server operation, eliminating the need to backup and restore after reconfiguration of the RAID set. When disks are added to a RAID set, unused capacity is added to the end of the RAID set. Then, data

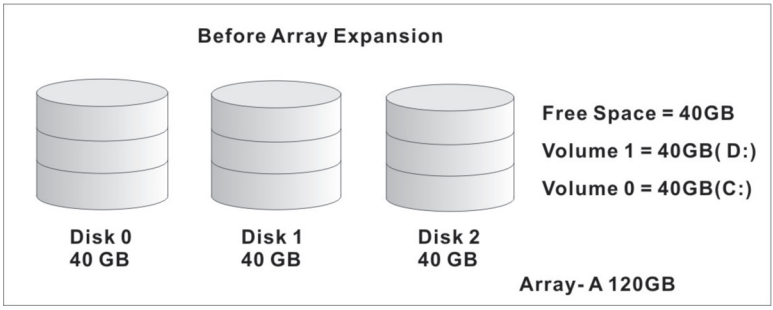
on the existing volume sets (residing on the newly expanded RAID set) is redistributed evenly across all the disks. A contiguous block of unused capacity is made available on the RAID set. The unused capacity can be used to create additional volume sets.

A disk, to be added to a RAID set, must be in normal mode (not failed), free (not spare, in a RAID set, or passed through to host) and must have at least the same capacity as the smallest disk capacity already in the RAID set.

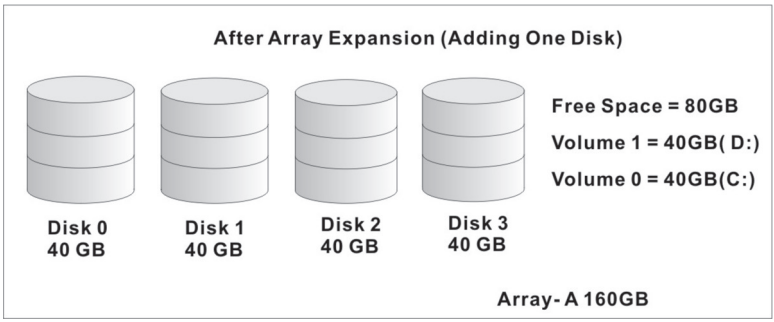
Capacity expansion is only permitted to proceed if all volumes on the RAID set are in the normal status. During the expansion process, the volume sets being expanded can be accessed by the host system. In addition, the volume sets with RAID level 1, 10, 3, 5 or 6 are protected against data loss in the event of disk failure(s). In the case of disk failure, the volume set changes from "migrating" state to "migrating+degraded" state. When the expansion is completed, the volume set would then transition to "degraded" mode. If a global hot spare is present, then it further changes to the "rebuilding" state.

The expansion process is illustrated as following figure.

RAID controller redistributes the original volume set over the



original and newly added disks, using the same fault-tolerance configuration. The unused capacity on the expand RAID set can then be used to create an additional volume set, with a different fault tolerance setting (if required by the user.)



• Online RAID Level and Stripe Size Migration

For those who wish to later upgrade to any RAID capabilities, a system with online RAID level/stripe size migration allows a simplified upgrade to any supported RAID level without having to reinstall the operating system.

The RAID controllers can migrate both the RAID level and stripe size of an existing volume set, while the server is online and the volume set is in use. Online RAID level/stripe size migration can prove helpful during performance tuning activities as well as when additional physical disks are added to the RAID controller. For example, in a system using two drives in RAID level 1, it is possible to add a single drive and add capacity and retain fault tolerance. (Normally, expanding a RAID level 1 array would require the addition of two disks). A third disk can be added to the existing RAID logical drive and the volume set can then be migrated from RAID level 1 to 5. The result would be parity fault tolerance and double the available capacity without taking the system down. A forth disk could be added to migrate to RAID level 6. It is only possible to migrate to a higher RAID level by adding a disk; disks in an existing array can't be reconfigured for a higher RAID level without adding a disk.

Online migration is only permitted to begin, if all volumes to be migrated are in the normal mode. During the migration process, the volume sets being migrated are accessed by the host system. In addition, the volume sets with RAID level 1, 1E, 10, 3, 5 or 6 are protected against data loss in the event of disk failure(s). In the case of disk failure, the volume set transitions

from migrating state to (migrating+degraded) state. When the migration is completed, the volume set transitions to degraded mode. If a global hot spare is present, then it further transitions to rebuilding state.

• Online Volume Expansion

Performing a volume expansion on the controller is the process of growing only the size of the latest volume. A more flexible option is for the array to concatenate an additional drive into the RAID set and then expand the volumes on the fly. This happens transparently while the volumes are online, but, at the end of the process, the operating system will detect free space at after the existing volume.

Windows, NetWare and other advanced operating systems support volume expansion, which enables you to incorporate the additional free space within the volume into the operating system partition. The operating system partition is extended to incorporate the free space so it can be used by the operating system without creating a new operating system partition.

You can use the Diskpart.exe command line utility, included with Windows Server 2003 or the Windows 2000 Resource Kit, to extend an existing partition into free space in the dynamic disk.

Third-party software vendors have created utilities that can be used to repartition disks without data loss. Most of these utilities work offline. Partition Magic is one such utility.

High Availability

• Global/Local Hot Spares

A hot spare is an unused online available drive, which is ready for replacing the failure disk. The hot spare is one of the most important features that RAID controllers provide to deliver a high degree of fault-tolerance. A hot spare is a spare physical drive that has been marked as a hot spare and therefore is not a member of any RAID set. If a disk drive used in a volume set fails, then the hot spare will automatically take its place and he

data previously located on the failed drive is reconstructed on the hot spare.

Dedicated hot spare is assigned to serve one specified RAID set. Global hot spare is assigned to serve all RAID set on the RAID controller. Dedicated hot spare has higher priority than the global hot spare. For this feature to work properly, the hot spare must have at least the same capacity as the drive it replaces. The host spare function only works with RAID level 1, 1E, 3, 5, 6, 10, 30, 50, or 60 volume set.

The "Create Hot Spare" option gives you the ability to define a global/dedicated hot spare disk drive. To effectively use the hot spare feature, you must always maintain at least one drive that is marked as a global hot spare.

Important:

The hot spare must have at least the same capacity as the drive it replaces.

• Hot-Swap Disk Drive Support

The RAID controller chip includes a protection circuit that supports the replacement of SATA hard disk drives without having to shut down or reboot the system. A removable hard drive tray can deliver "hot swappable" fault-tolerant RAID solutions. This feature provides advanced fault tolerant RAID protection and "online" drive replacement.

• Auto Declare Hot-Spare

If a disk drive is brought online into a system operating in degraded mode, the RAID controllers will automatically declare the new disk as a spare and begin rebuilding the degraded volume. The Auto Declare Hot-Spare function requires that the smallest drive contained within the volume set in which the failure occurred.

In the normal status, the newly installed drive will be reconfigured an online free disk. But, the newly-installed drive is au-

tomatically assigned as a hot spare if any hot spare disk was used to rebuild and without new installed drive replaced it. In this condition, the Auto Declare Hot-Spare status will be disappeared if the RAID subsystem has since powered off/on.

The Hot-Swap function can be used to rebuild disk drives in arrays with data redundancy such as RAID level 1, 1E, 3, 5, 6, 10, 30, 50 and 60.

• Auto Rebuilding

If a hot spare is available, the rebuild starts automatically when a drive fails. The RAID controllers automatically and transparently rebuild failed drives in the background at user-definable rebuild rates.

If a hot spare is not available, the failed disk drive must be replaced with a new disk drive so that the data on the failed drive can be automatically rebuilt and so that fault tolerance can be maintained.

RAID controllers will automatically restart the system and rebuilding process if the system is shut down or powered off abnormally during a reconstruction procedure condition.

When a disk is hot swapped, although the system is functionally operational, the system may no longer be fault tolerant. Fault tolerance will be lost until the removed drive is replaced and the rebuild operation is completed.

During the automatic rebuild process, system activity will continue as normal, however, the system performance and fault tolerance will be affected.

• Adjustable Rebuild Priority

Rebuilding a degraded volume incurs a load on the RAID subsystem. The RAID controllers allow the user to select the rebuild priority to balance volume access and rebuild tasks appropriately. The Background Task Priority is a relative indication of how much time the controller devotes to a background opera-

tion, such as rebuilding or migrating.

RAID controller allows user to choose the task priority (Ultra Low (5%), Low (20%), Medium (50%), High (80%)) to balance volume set access and background tasks appropriately. For high array performance, specify an Ultra Low value. Like volume initialization, after a volume rebuilds, it does not require a system reboot.

High Reliability

• Hard Drive Failure Prediction

In an effort to help users avoid data loss, disk manufacturers are now incorporating logic into their drives that acts as an "early warning system" for pending drive problems. This system is called SMART. The disk integrated controller works with multiple sensors to monitor various aspects of the drive's performance, determines from this information if the drive is behaving normally or not, and makes available status information to 6Gb/s SATA RAID controller firmware that probes the drive and look at it.

The SMART can often predict a problem before failure occurs. The controllers will recognize a SMART error code and notify the administer of an impending hard drive failure.

• Auto Reassign Sector

Under normal operation, even initially defect-free drive media can develop defects. This is a common phenomenon. The bit density and rotational speed of disks is increasing every year, and so are the potential of problems. Usually a drive can internally remap bad sectors without external help using cyclic redundancy check (CRC) checksums stored at the end of each sector.

The RAID controller drives perform automatic defect re-assignment for both read and write errors. Writes are always completed - if a location to be written is found to be defective, the

drive will automatically relocate that write command to a new location and map out the defective location. If there is a recoverable read error, the correct data will be transferred to the host and that location will be tested by the drive to be certain the location is not defective. If it is found to have a defect, data will be automatically relocated, and the defective location is mapped out to prevent future write attempts.

In the event of an unrecoverable read error, the error will be reported to the host and the location will be flagged as being potentially defective. A subsequent write to that location will initiate a sector test and relocation should that location prove to have a defect. Auto Reassign Sector does not affect disk subsystem performance because it runs as a background task. Auto Reassign Sector discontinues when the operating system makes a request.

- **Consistency Check**

A consistency check is a process that verifies the integrity of redundant data. To verify RAID 3, 5, 6, 30, 50 or 60 redundancy, a consistency check reads all associated data blocks, computes parity, reads parity, and verifies that the computed parity matches the read parity.

Consistency checks are very important because they detect and correct parity errors or bad disk blocks in the drive. A consistency check forces every block on a volume to be read, and any bad blocks are marked; those blocks are not used again. This is critical and important because a bad disk block can prevent a disk rebuild from completing. We strongly recommend that you run consistency checks on a regular basis—at least once per week. Note that consistency checks degrade performance, so you should run them when the system load can tolerate it.

Data Protection

- **Battery Backup**

The RAID controllers are armed with a Battery Backup Module (BBM). While a Uninterruptible Power Supply (UPS) protects

most servers from power fluctuations or failures, a BBM provides an additional level of protection. In the event of a power failure, a BBM supplies power to retain data in the RAID controller's cache, thereby permitting any potentially dirty data in the cache to be flushed out to secondary storage when power is restored. The batteries in the BBM are recharged continuously through a trickle-charging process whenever the system power is on. The batteries protect data in a failed server for up to three or four days, depending on the size of the memory module. Under normal operating conditions, the batteries last for three years before replacement is necessary.

- **Recovery ROM**

RAID controller firmware is stored on the flash ROM and is executed by the I/O processor. The firmware can also be updated through the RAID controllers PCIe 2.0 bus port or Ethernet port without the need to replace any hardware chips. During the controller firmware upgrade flash process, it is possible for a problem to occur resulting in corruption of the controller firmware. With our Redundant Flash Image feature, the controller will revert back to the last known version of firmware and continue operating. This reduces the risk of system failure due to firmware crash.

APPENDIX

Appendix F

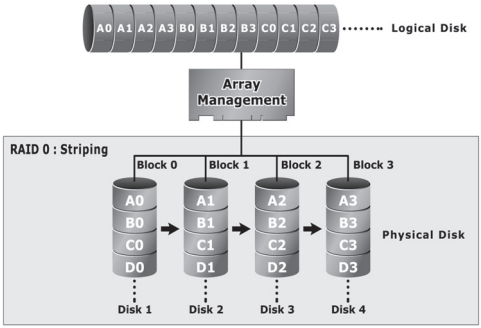
Understanding RAID

RAID is an acronym for Redundant Array of Independent Disks. It is an array of multiple independent hard disk drives that provides high performance and fault tolerance. The RAID controller implements several levels of the Berkeley RAID technology. An appropriate RAID level is selected when the volume sets are defined or created. This decision should be based on the desired disk capacity, data availability (fault tolerance or redundancy), and disk performance. The following section discusses the RAID levels supported by the RAID controller.

The RAID controllers makes the RAID implementation and the disks' physical configuration transparent to the host operating system. This means that the host operating system drivers and software utilities are not affected, regardless of the RAID level selected. Correct installation of the disk array and the controller requires a proper understanding of RAID technology and the concepts.

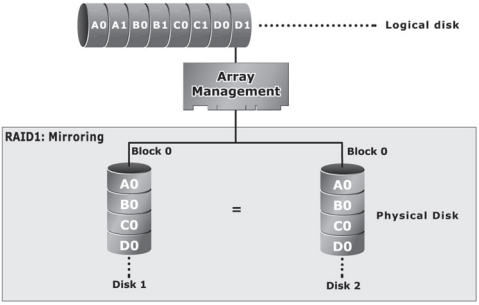
RAID 0

RAID 0, also referred to as striping, writes stripes of data across multiple disk drives instead of just one disk drive. RAID 0 does not provide any data redundancy, but does offer the best High-speed data throughput. RAID 0 breaks up data into smaller blocks and then writes a block to each drive in the array. Disk striping enhances performance because multiple drives are accessed simultaneously; the reliability of RAID level 0 is less because the entire array will fail if any one disk drive fails.



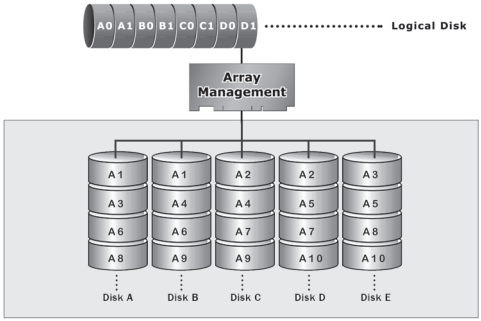
RAID 1

RAID 1 is also known as "disk mirroring"; data written on one disk drive is simultaneously written to another disk drive. Read performance will be enhanced if the array controller can, in parallel, access both members of a mirrored pair. During writes, there will be a minor performance penalty when compared to writing to a single disk. If one drive fails, all data (and software applications) are preserved on the other drive. RAID 1 offers extremely high data reliability, but at the cost of doubling the required data storage capacity.



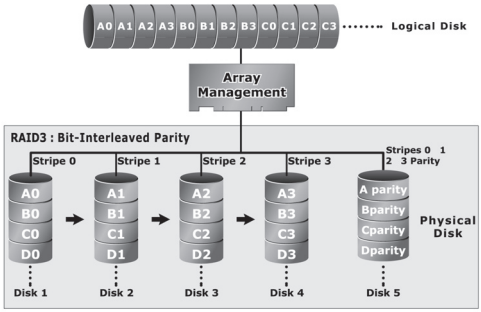
RAID 10(1E)

RAID 10(1E) is a combination of RAID 0 and RAID 1, combining stripping with disk mirroring. RAID Level 10 combines the fast performance of Level 0 with the data redundancy of level 1. In this configuration, data is distributed across several disk drives, similar to Level 0, which are then duplicated to another set of drive for data protection. RAID 10 has been traditionally implemented using an even number of disks, some hybrids can use an odd number of disks as well. Illustration is an example of a hybrid RAID 10(1E) array comprised of five disks; A, B, C, D and E. In this configuration, each strip is mirrored on an adjacent disk with wrap-around. Areca RAID 10 offers a little more flexibility in choosing the number of disks that can be used to constitute an array. The number can be even or odd.



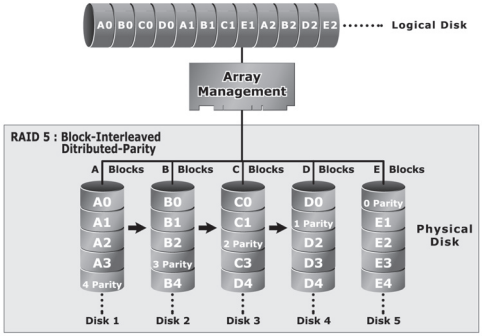
RAID 3

RAID 3 provides disk striping and complete data redundancy though a dedicated parity drive. RAID 3 breaks up data into smaller blocks, calculates parity by performing an exclusive-or on the blocks, and then writes the blocks to all but one drive in the array. The parity data created during the exclusive-or is then written to the last drive in the array. If a single drive fails, data is still available by computing the exclusive-or of the contents corresponding strips of the surviving member disk. RAID 3 is best for applications that require very fast data- transfer rates or long data blocks.



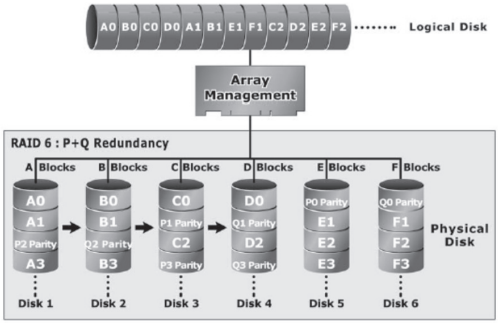
RAID 5

RAID 5 is sometimes called striping with parity at byte level. In RAID 5, the parity information is written to all of the drives in the controllers rather than being concentrated on a dedicated parity disk. If one drive in the system fails, the parity information can be used to reconstruct the data from that drive. All drives in the array system can be used for seek operations at the same time, greatly increasing the performance of the RAID system. This relieves the write bottleneck that characterizes RAID 4, and is the primary reason that RAID 5 is more often implemented in RAID arrays.



RAID 6

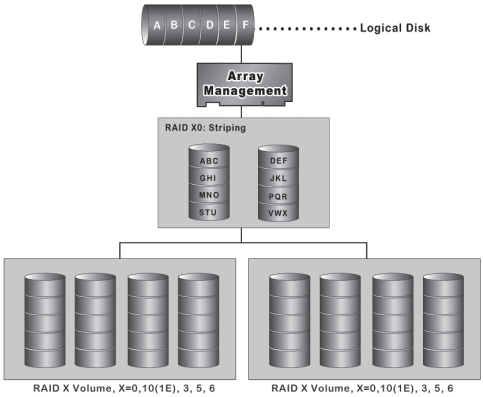
RAID 6 provides the highest reliability. It is similar to RAID 5, but it performs two different parity computations or the same computation on overlapping subsets of the data. RAID 6 can offer fault tolerance greater than RAID 1 or RAID 5 but only consumes the capacity of 2 disk drives for distributed parity data. RAID 6 is an extension of RAID 5 but uses a second, independent distributed parity scheme. Data is striped on a block level across a set of drives, and then a second set of parity is calculated and written across all of the drives.



RAID x0

RAID level-x0 refers to RAID level 00, 100, 30, 50 and 60. RAID x0 is a combination multiple RAID x volume sets with RAID 0 (striping). Striping helps to increase capacity and performance without adding disks to each RAID x array. The operating system uses the spanned volume in the same way as a regular volume. Up to one drive in each sub-volume (RAID 3 or 5) may fail without loss of data. Up to two drives in each sub-volume (RAID 6) may fail without loss of data. RAID level x0 allows more physical drives in an array. The benefits of doing so are larger volume sets, increased performance, and increased reliability.

The following illustration is an example of a RAID level x0 logical drive.



Important:

RAID level 00, 100, 30, 50 and 60 can support up to eight RAID set. If volume is RAID level 00, 100, 30, 50, or 60, you can't change the volume to another RAID level. If volume is RAID level 0, 1, 10(1E), 3, 5, or 6, you can't change the volume to RAID level 00, 100, 30, 50, or 60.

JBOD

(Just a Bunch Of Disks) A group of hard disks in a RAID box are not set up as any type of RAID configuration. All drives are available to the operating system as an individual disk. JBOD does not provide data redundancy.

Single Disk (Pass-Through Disk)

Pass through disk refers to a drive that is not controlled by the RAID firmware and thus can not be a part of a RAID volume. The drive is available to the operating system as an individual disk.

Summary of RAID Levels

6Gb/s SATA RAID controller supports RAID Level 0, 1, 10(1E), 3, 5, 6, 30, 50 and 60. The following table provides a summary of RAID levels.

RAID Level Comparision			
RAID Level	Description	Disks Requirement (Minimum)	Data Availability
0	Also known as striping. Data distributed across multiple drives in the array. There is no data protection.	1	No data Protection
1	Also known as mirroring. All data replicated on 2 separated disks. N is almost always 2. Due to this is a 100 % duplication, so is a high costly solution.	2	Up to one disk failure
10(1E)	Also known as mirroring and striping. Data is written to two disks simultaneously, and allows an odd number or disk. Read request can be satisfied by data read from wither one disk or both disks.	3	Up to one disk failure in each sub-volume
3	Also known Bit-Interleaved Parity. Data and parity information is subdivided and distributed across all data disks. Parity information normally stored on a dedicated parity disk.	3	Up to one disk failure
5	Also known Block-Interleaved Distributed Parity. Data and parity information is subdivided and distributed across all disk. Parity information normally is interspersed with user data.	3	Up to one disk failure
6	RAID 6 provides highest reliability, but not widely used. Similar to RAID 5, but does two different parity computations or the same computation on overlapping subsets of the data. The RAID 6 can offer fault tolerance greater that RAID 1 or RAID 5 but only consumes the capacity of 2 disk drives for distributed parity data.	4	Up to two disk failure

30	RAID 30 is a combination multiple RAID 3 volume sets with RAID 0 (striping)	6	Up to one disk failure in each sub-volume
50	RAID 50 is a combination multiple RAID 5 volume sets with RAID 0 (striping)	6	Up to one disk failure in each sub-volume
60	RAID 60 is a combination multiple RAID 6 volume sets with RAID 0 (striping)	8	Up to two disk failure in each sub-volume